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FROM OUT OF THE PAGES OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG COMES...
KNUCKLES
The Dark Legion
#1 OF A THREE ISSUE MINI-SERIES

KNUCKLES™

The Dark Legion

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Artists

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Book Two

KNUCKLES: THE DARK LEGION™ No. 2 (of 4) (Issue nine overall) May 1997. Published 4 times a year by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher. Michael I. Sidowski, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies $2.50 in the U.S., $3.50 in Canada. SEGA is registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Sonic The Hedgehog, Knuckles and all related characters and marks are trademarks of SEGA © 1997 SEGA. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictitious characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER: send address changes to KNUCKLES: THE DARK LEGION™ c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543.
Printed in Canada

IN MANY WAYS KNUCKLES' LIFE HAS BEEN A SIMPLE ONE, EVEN THOUGH IT CAME WITH MANY RESPONSIBILITIES FROM THE MOMENT HE WAS BORN. ONLY AT PIVOTAL MOMENTS IN HIS YOUNG LIFE HAS HE BECOME AWARE OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE OBLIGATIONS HE HAS INCURRED — NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS, BUT WHAT HE IS AS WELL.

AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, KNUCKLES HAS EVER SOUGHT TO PRESERVE THE UTOPIA-LIKE ENVIRONMENT FOR ITS INHABITANTS. EVER WATCHFUL OF DANGER USUALLY FROM FORCES ORIGINATING FROM MOBIUS PROPER, HE NEVER DREAMED HIS GREATEST THREAT WOULD ONE DAY COME FROM HIS OWN KIND.

HAVING NEVER PREVIOUSLY INTERACTED WITH ANY OTHER ECHIDNA SAVE HIS FATHER, KNUCKLES, FOR THE FIRST TIME, FINDS HIMSELF QUESTIONING THE LESSONS HE HAS LEARNED, AND THEIR RELEVANCY TO THE PREDICAMENT HE NOW FINDS HIMSELF IN. AT THIS PIVOTAL LIFE POINT, HE MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO SIDE WITH HIS OWN KIND IN THE BELIEF THEY MAY BE RIGHT, OR TO OPPOSE THEM OUT OF SIMPLE FAITH IN WHAT HE HAS BEEN TAUGHT BY HIS PARENT.

UNLIKE MOST CHOICES HE MUST MAKE, THIS MAY BE THE MOST DIFFICULT YET, AS EITHER SIDE CAN CLAIM THAT BLOOD IS THICKER...

SPA-LOOOSH!

WUBBA! WUBBA! WUBBA!
WHA--?

EITHER I'M DREAMING OR SOMEONE DOESN'T CARE IF THEY MAKE ME MAD!
AND NOBODY-BUT NOBODY-WANTS TO MAKE ME MAD!

TOUGH TALK COMING FROM ONE IN YOUR POSITION!
LET'S SEE HOW TOUGH YOU REALLY ARE TALKING TO KRAGOK!
LET'S GO!

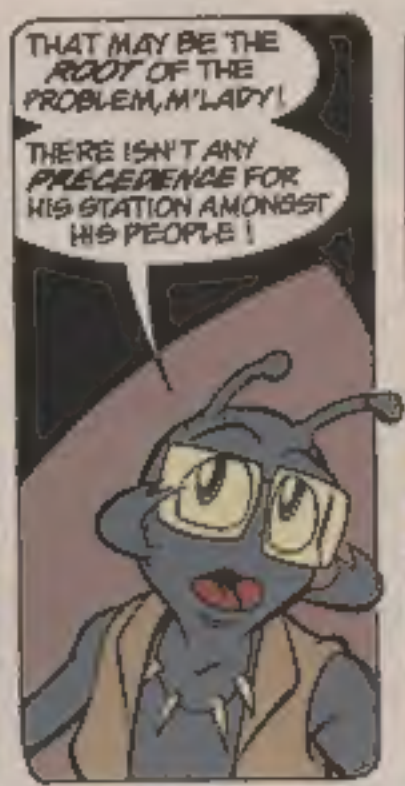
SO THE BIG CHEESE HAS DECIDED HE WANTS TO TALK TURKEY, EH?
I'D CHECK THE EGO BEFORE I SPEAK WITH KRAGOK, IF I WERE YOU!
WITH MY LOVEABLE PERSONALITY, HOW COULD ANYONE BE DISAGREEABLE?

KNUCKLES™
The Dark Legion
BOOK TWO
VER-RY FUNNY!
WE'LL SEE HOW AMUSING YOU ARE ONCE HE'S FINISHED WITH YOU!
GET IN THERE!
SINS OF THE FATHERS

THERE HE IS!
COME IN, KNUCKLES! WE'VE A LOT TO DISCUSS!
GIVING ME THE SILENT TREATMENT, EH?
THERE'S A TIME AND PLACE FOR EVERYTHING, BUT HERE AND NOW IS NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE PLACE.
SIT! SIT!
IT'S KINDA HARD TO BE OBLIGING WHEN ONE IS SHACKLED-- GET MY DRIFT?
RELEASE HIM!
LEST YOU GET ANY FOOLISH NOTIONS, REMEMBER--MY MEN WON'T HESITATE TO TAKE ACTION!
NOW THEN-- WHERE SHALL WE BEGIN?
SNAP!

THE PAST:
MY QUEEN, THE SITUATION CONCERNING THE ECHIDNAS GROWS WORSE!
WE'VE DONE ALL THAT WE CAN, CHRISTOPHELES!
WHAT MORE CAN WE DO?

THEY APPOINTED ONE OF THEIR OWN TO ACT AS A SAFEGUARD FROM THEMSELVES AND THEIR OWN TECHNOLOGY!


THAT MAY BE THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM, M'LADY!
THERE ISN'T ANY PRECEDENCE FOR HIS STATION AMONGST HIS PEOPLE!

PERHAPS IF HE HAD A GUIDE--
SOMEONE WITH EXPERIENCE SUCH AS THOSE IN THIS CHAMBER!
ANY VOLUNTEERS--
CHRISTOPHELES?

I LIVE TO SERVE, MY QUEEN!
I'M ON MY WAY!
BAMF!

THE CITIZENS ARE A CRAVEN AND COWARDLY LOT! MAYBE IF I ADOPTED A DISGUISE, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO INSPIRE AND RAISE THEIR SPIRITS! I MUST BE A CREATURE OF LIGHT AND HOPE, A--A--

AN ANT?

YOU DON'T NEED THE CLOAK OF SECRECY! YOUR ENEMY ALREADY HAS THAT!

LET THE LIGHT OF TRUTH BE YOUR WEAPON!

I CAN'T DENY YOU MAKE SENSE--

--BUT WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO YOU?

YOUR SON IS IN GRAVE DANGER, FOR HE HAS DISCOVERED THE TRUTH!

AS ALL OF YOU WILL BE UNLESS--

WAIT!

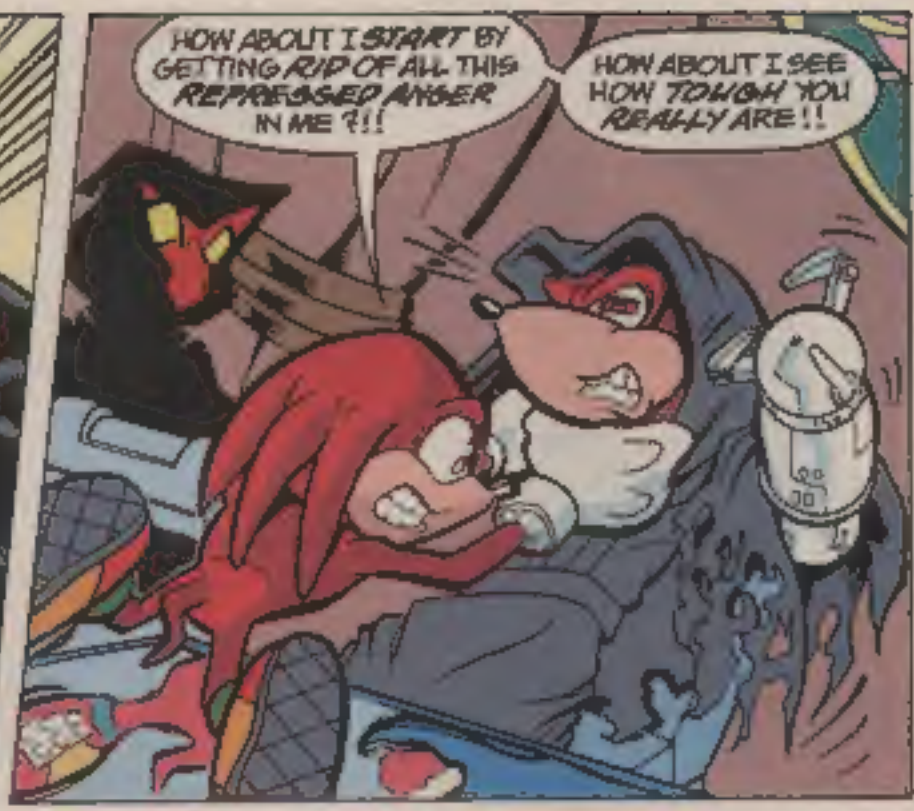
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

I HAVEN'T FINISHED--

THE TIME FOR TALK HAS PASSED!

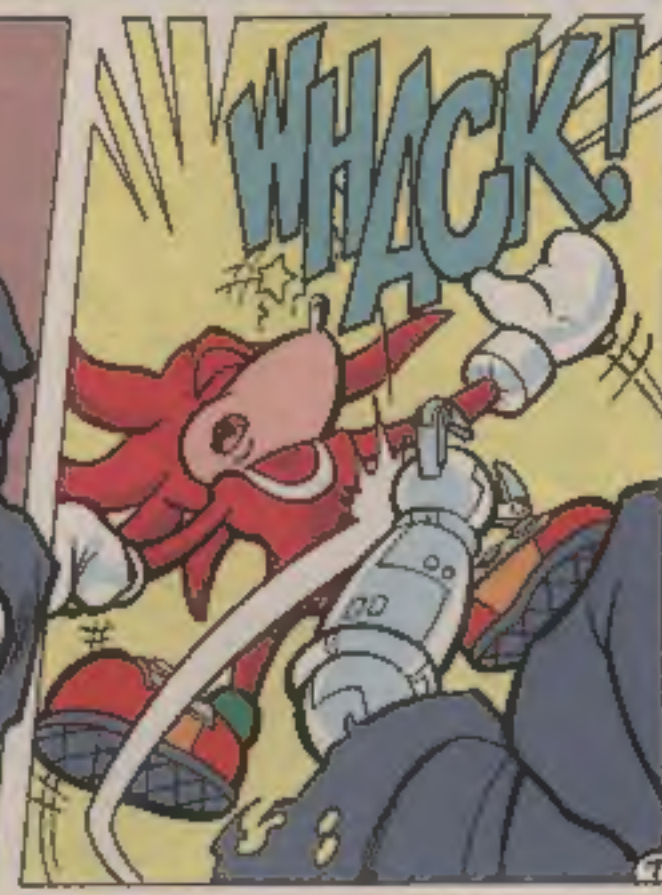
"MY PEOPLE--MY SON--NOW NEED ME TO ACT!"

WHERE TO START, EH?

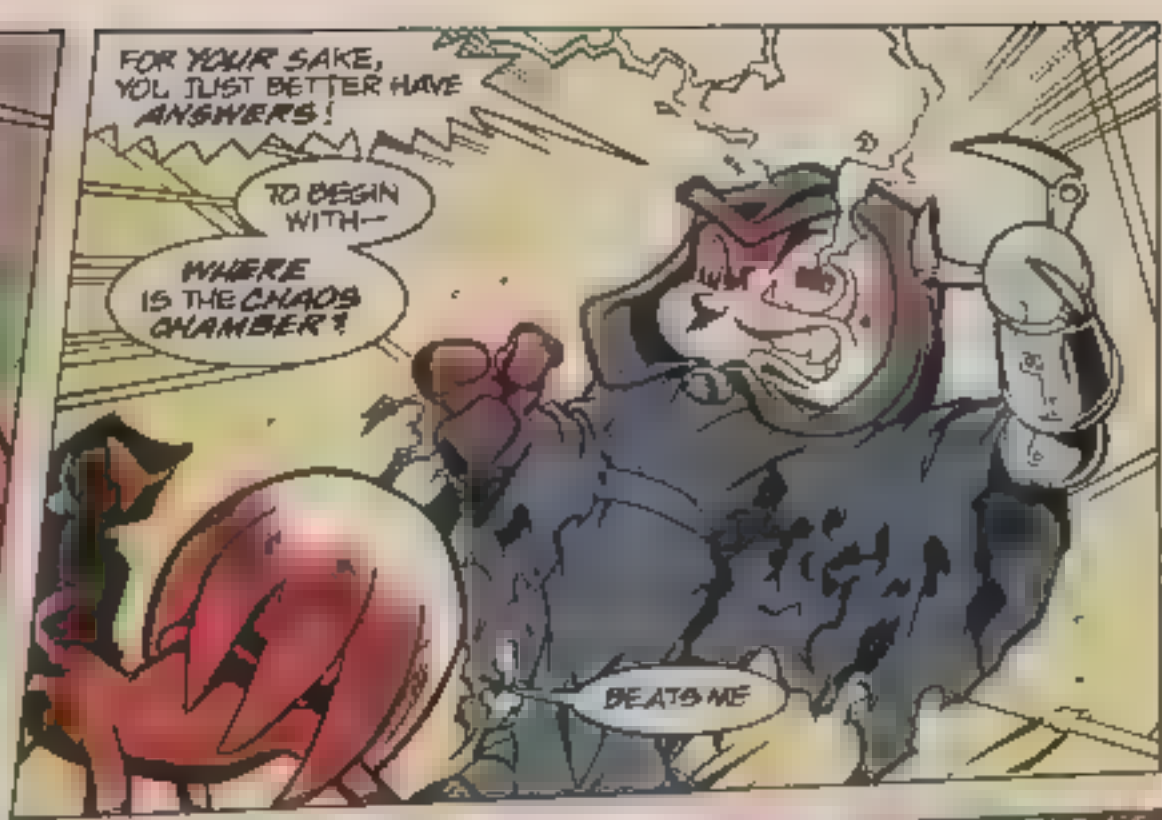

HOW ABOUT I START BY GETTING RID OF ALL THIS REPRESSED ANGER IN ME?!!
HOW ABOUT I SEE HOW TOUGH YOU REALLY ARE!!

KRYAAK
OOF!
OOM!
BASH!
BAM!

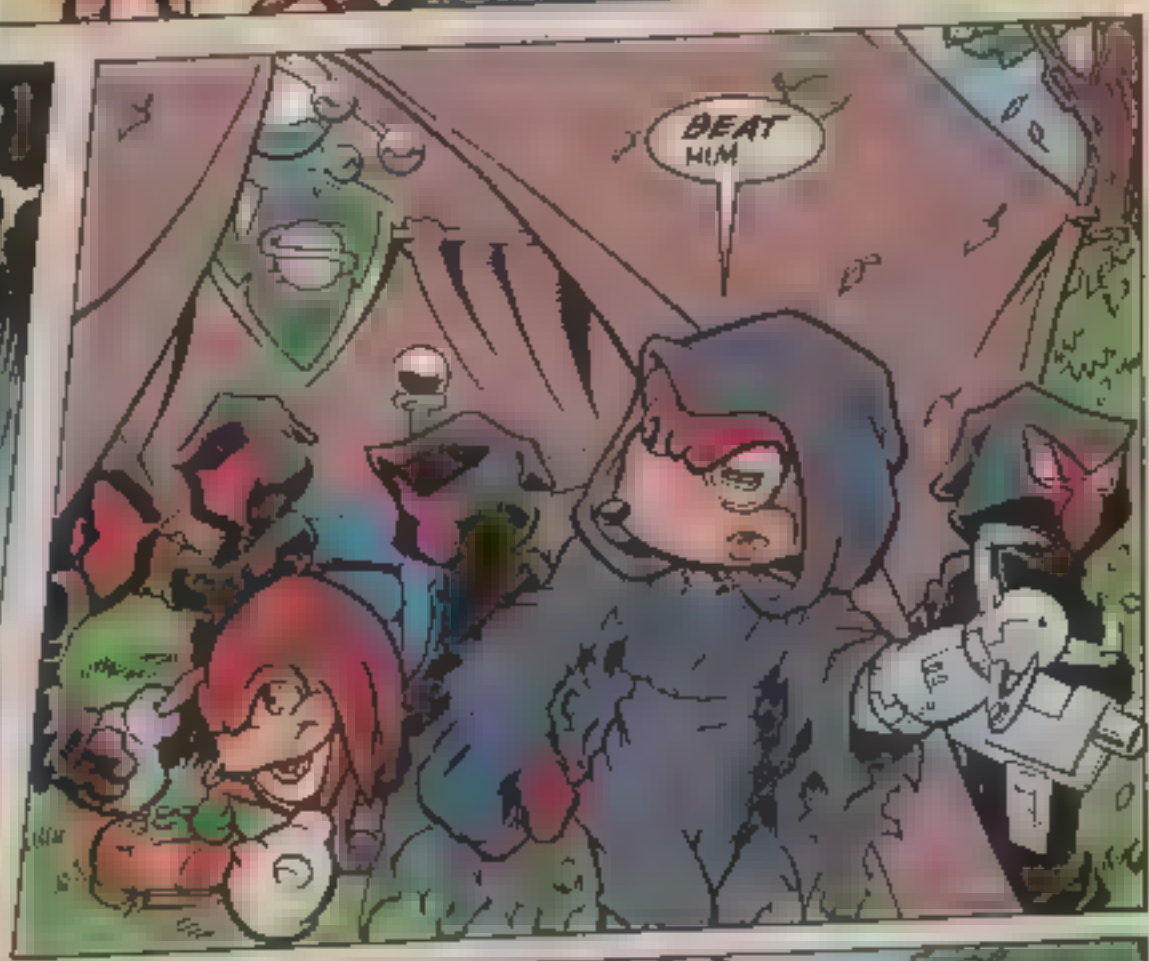
DO YOU REALLY THINK I NEED MY GUARDS TO HANDLE THE LIKES OF YOU?!
THEN WHY'RE THEY STILL HOLDING ME, LEAD HEAD?


WHACK!

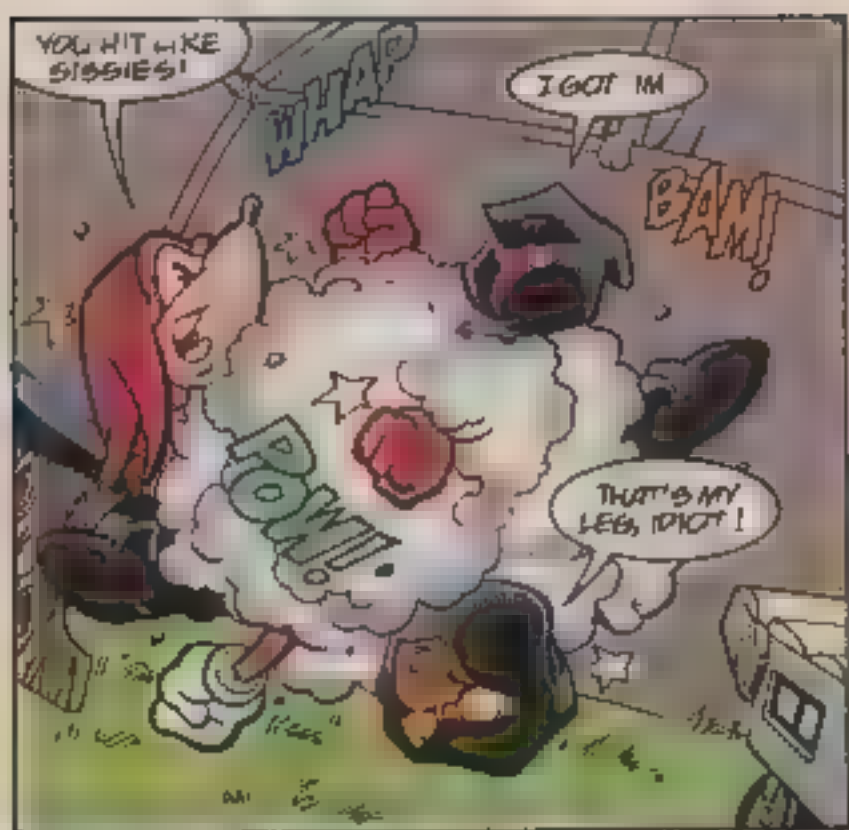
I'M THE ONE WHO ASKS THE QUESTIONS HERE!

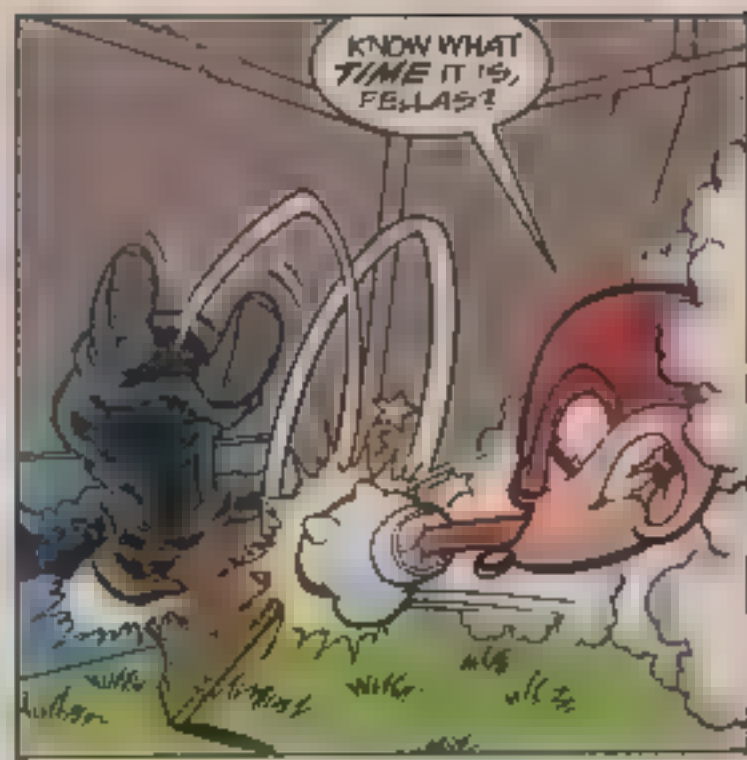

FOR YOUR SAKE, YOU JUST BETTER HAVE ANSWERS!
TO BEGIN WITH—
WHERE IS THE CHAOS CHAMBER?
BEATS ME

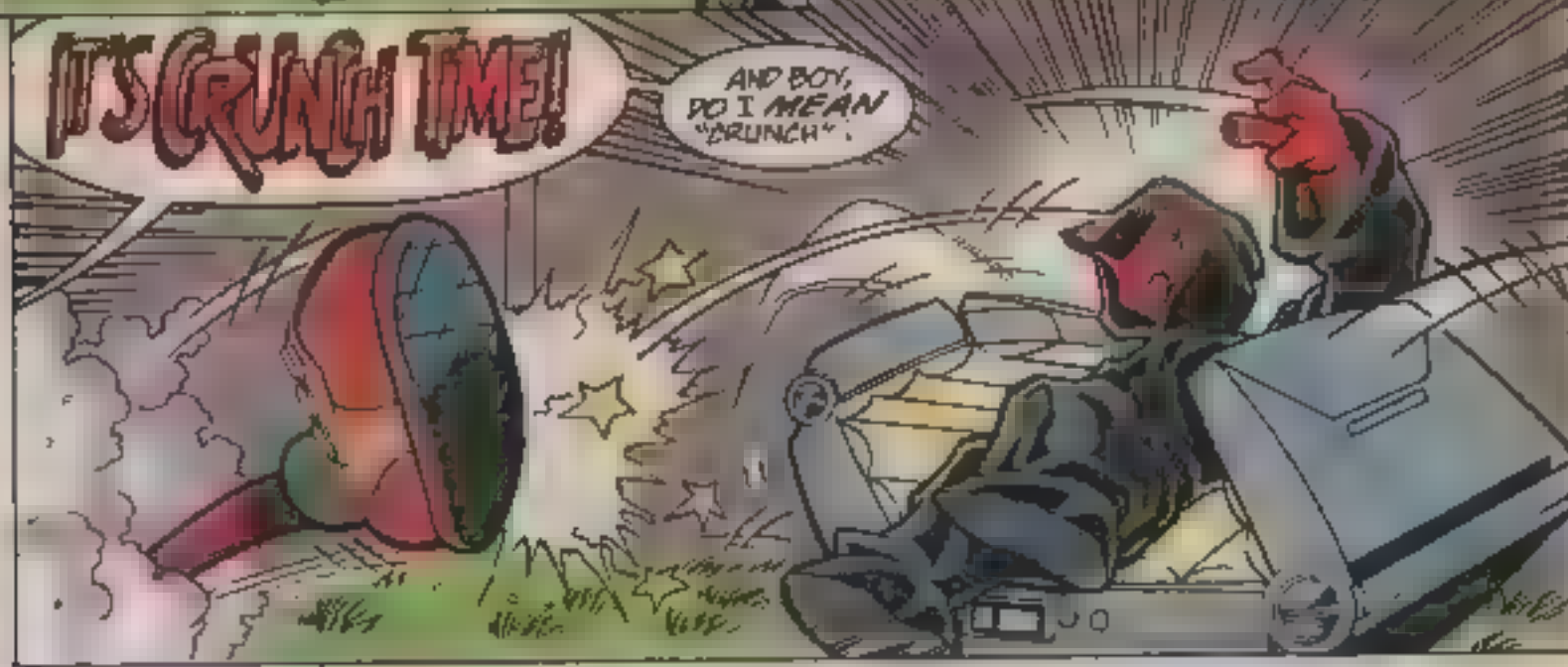
YOU'RE A GUARDIAN—OF COURSE YOU KNOW.
...BUT I WON'T WASTE MY TIME PLAYING YOUR GAMES!
I'LL JUST DO AS YOU SUGGEST

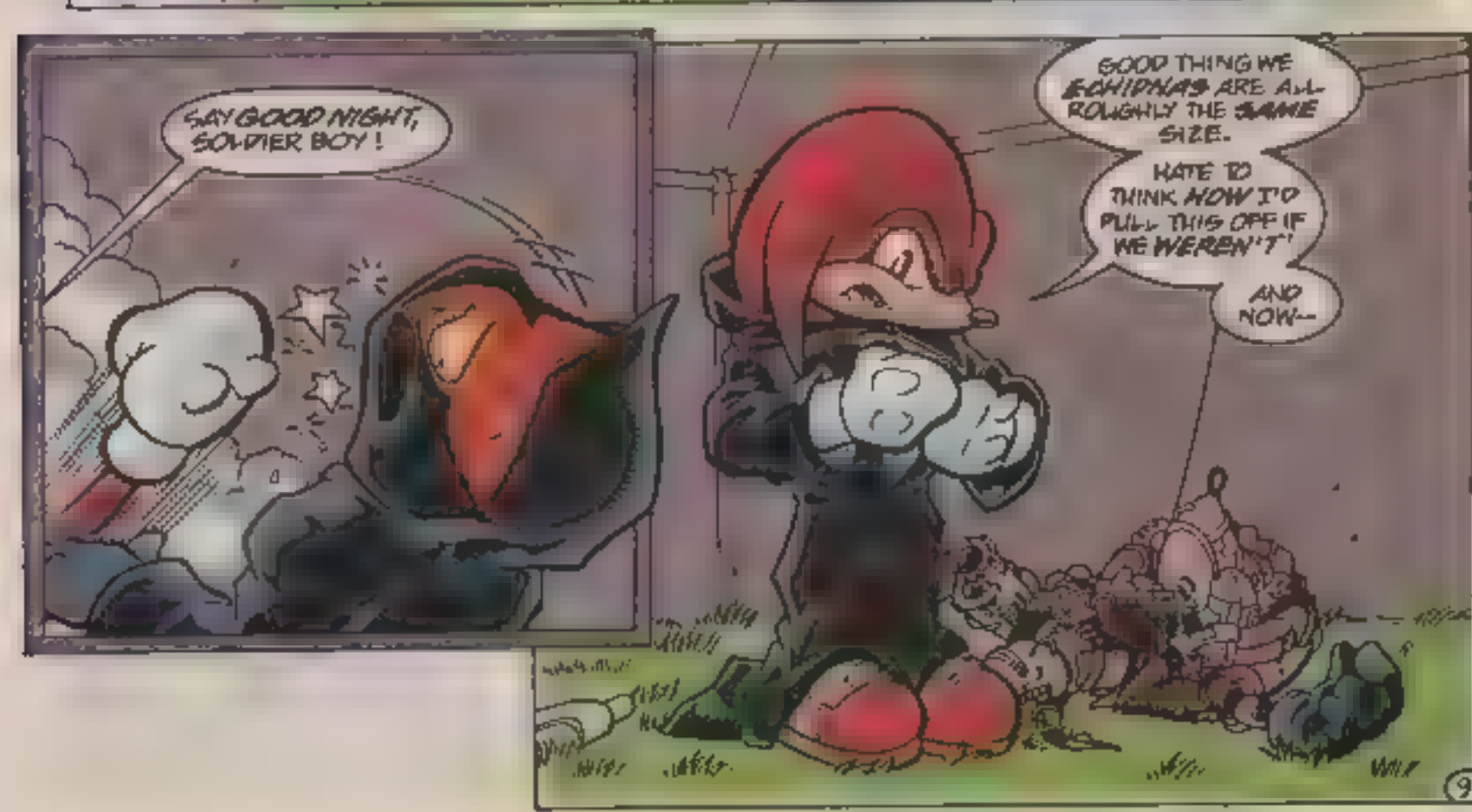

BEAT HIM

CRAK
BASH


YOU HIT LIKE SISSIES!
WHAP
I GOT IM
BAM
POW!
THAT'S MY LEG, IDIOT!


KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS, FELLAS?


IT'S CRUNCH TIME!
AND BOY, DO I MEAN "BRUNCH".


SAY GOOD NIGHT, SOLDIER BOY!
GOOD THING WE ECHIDNAS ARE ALL ROUGHLY THE SAME SIZE.
HATE TO THINK HOW I'D PULL THIS OFF IF WE WEREN'T!
AND NOW--

AWW--THERE'S NO WAY THE PUNK COULD'VE SURVIVED THE CRASH!

DO YOU SEE A BODY? I DON'T SEE ANY BODY!

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY--

--UNLESS YOU SEE A BODY--EH?

WHAT'S THAT?

WHATEVER IT WAS, IT SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM OVER HERE!

CLAMP!

DID YOU SAY SOMETHI--

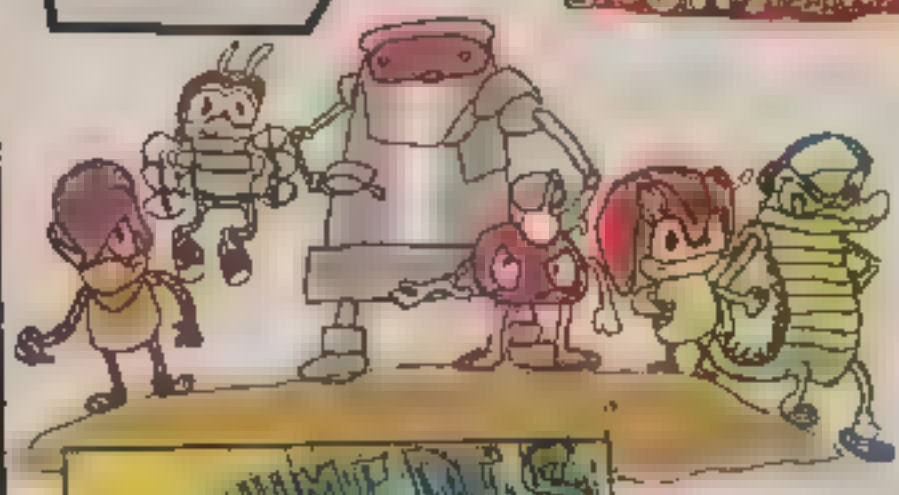
FAN ART

KNUCKLES

Ian Sanders
Mosheum, TN

CHAOTIX

ESPIO



THE COOLEST

KNUCKLES QUEST 4

Kelly Rose
Vale, CA
Age 11

Jonathan
Hardesty
Hendrum, MN
Age 12

Jeff Carnell
Fairborn, OH

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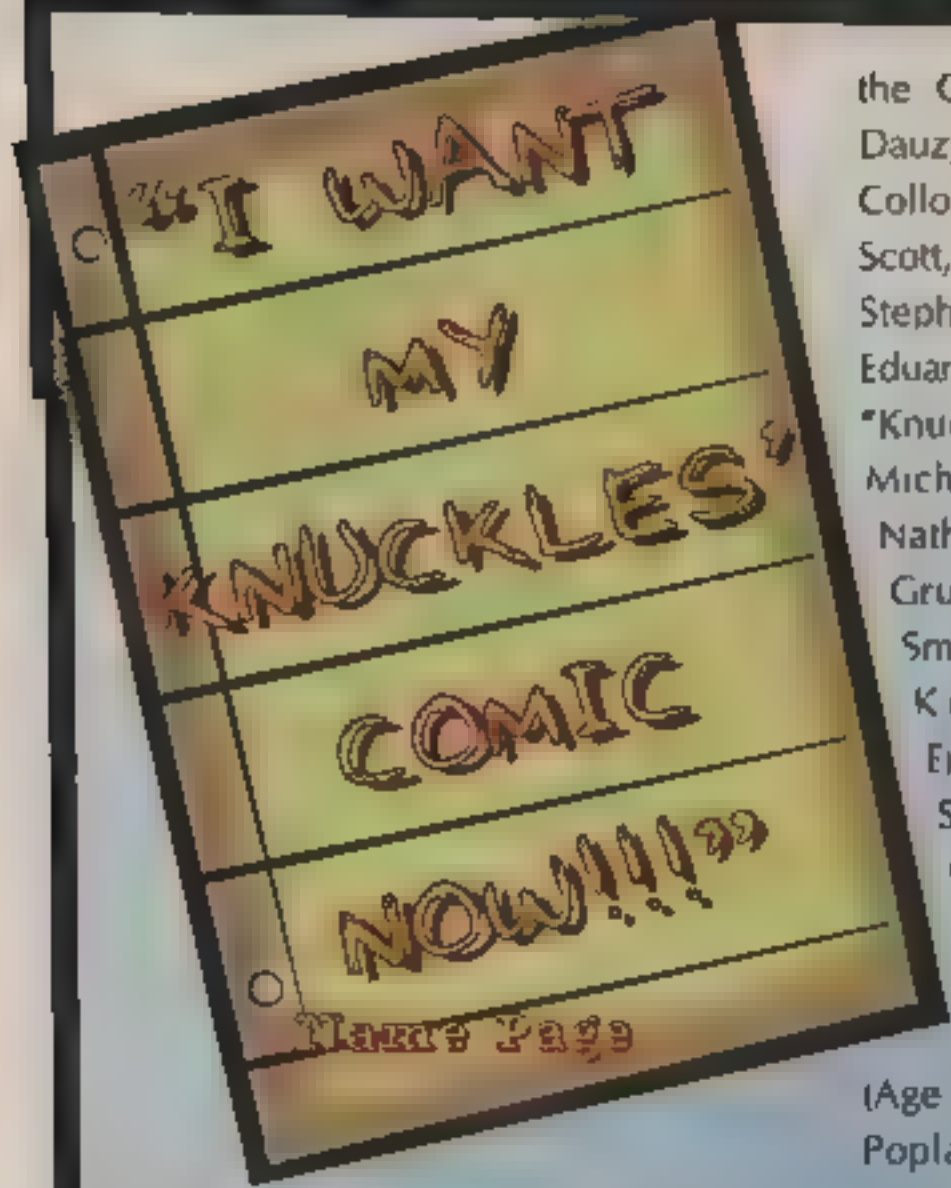
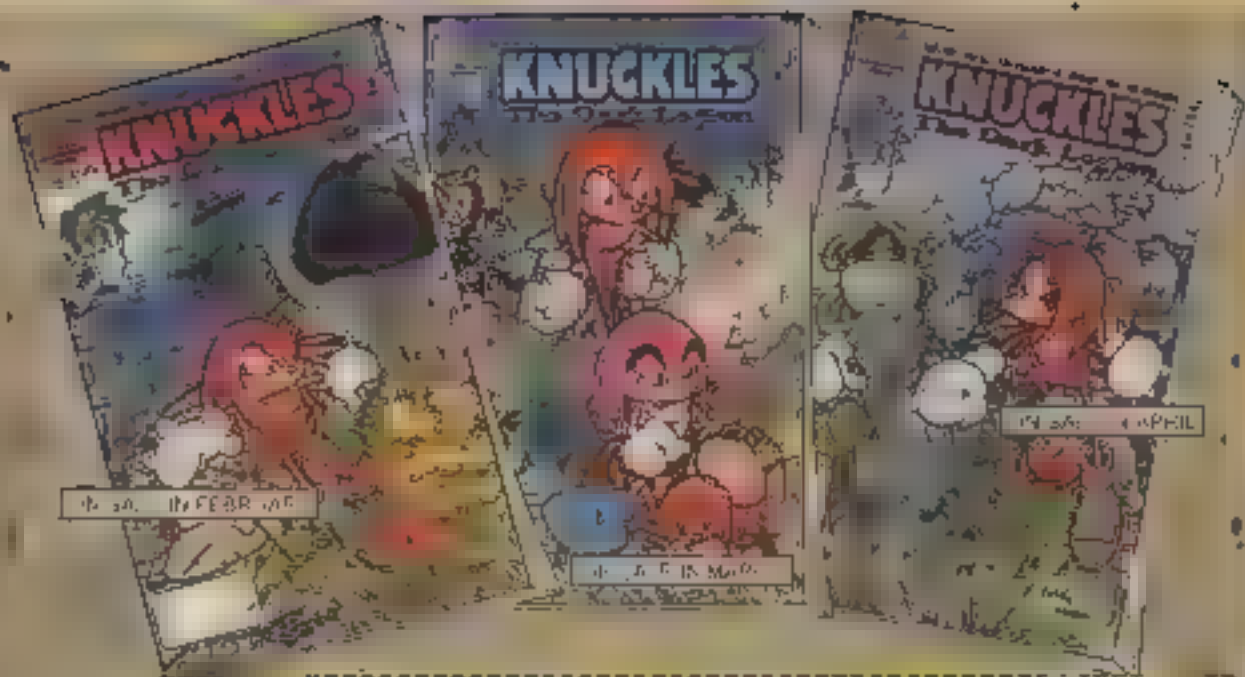


Dorian Kernytsky, Ryan T. Neff, George Esterly, Gian Carlo Iglesias (Age 13), Matthew Michel, Cody Arthur Patton (Lightning the Hedgehog), L. Stevens, James A. Mills Jr, Susan Hatfield, Chris Sedgwick (x2), Mark Fuji, Skylar Fisher, Robert Heide, Jack "Knuckles Jr" Geist, Robby Glover, Vance McBride (from Canada), Mark Willman, William Marinovich, Josh Gegal, Zachary Moning, Lee Lexa, Jennifer Blum, Jimmy Salmon (from Canada), Mark Swickley, Kyle Cyr, Dusty & Katon Gerky, Tiffany Alford, Daniel Suddes, Jenny Goldsmith, Lauren Eras, James Huffman, Kyle Elmore, Stephanie Koo, Jae Wilson (Age 9), Tabitha Neumeier (Age 8), Victoria Bean (Age 15), Dany Shafer, Rankies the Otter (from Angel Island), David Dauz, Shaun Zuhosky, Alex Davis, Mark Collofello (age 7), G (from CA), Brittany Scott, Lyndsay Poole & Beth "Lefty" Stephenaski (Age 12) & Jen Elliot, Eduardo Hernandez Jr, Ian Leslie, Kristie "Knuckles" Updike, Zac Lithfield, Michael Melvoid (from Australia), Nathan Hufnagel (Age 10), Denny Grube (Age 10), Mell Cat, Andre Smaniotto, Chris Shortle, Timothy Kidwai, Jared Matte, Andrew Jones, Eric Van Vleet, Mike & Lyn Seymour, Lisa Wheeler, Chris Cioffi, Sam Witherspoon, Kevin O'Brien, Lakisha "Knuckles' girl-friend" Martin, Sean Shukoski, A Friend, Wendy Warrelmann (Age 13), Danielle Dabler, Nicholas Poplawski, Eric Coleman, Karen Morrison, Orvin C. Lao, Jerid Prater, Jessica V. Pratt, Justin Kelly, Sandy Lamison, C.M. Stevens, Elodie Westouer, Jenny Gulab (Age 11), Jarrett Dottin, J.J. Scott, Jessica Kazemka, Michael Saylor, Joe Jason Soosiah, Jacob Lahr, Dustin Freeman, William Escobar, Steven Caruso, Fuqua Bethea, David Pearson, Eric Seyfarth (Age 9), T.J., Nathan "Sonic" Bonner (Age 15), Richard "Sonic Jr" Jasmin, Petra (thanks for the song), Jr., Matthew Rodriguez, Hunter Moyer, Melinda Dimitropoulos, Adam Grossheider, Tim Weeks, Justin M. Puik (Age 7), and Jamie McGregor...

...more "I Want My Knuckles Comic Now!!!" names next month. Thank you all for writing to the Rad Red! See ya'!



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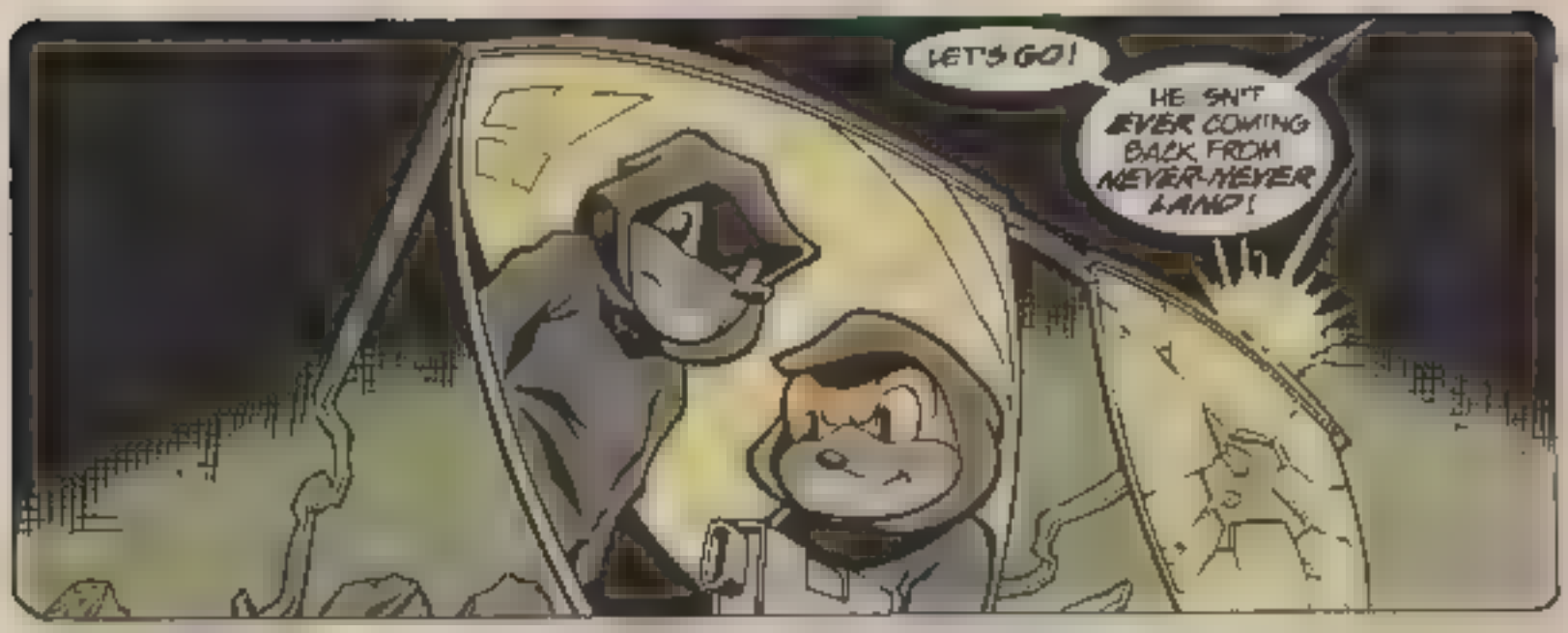
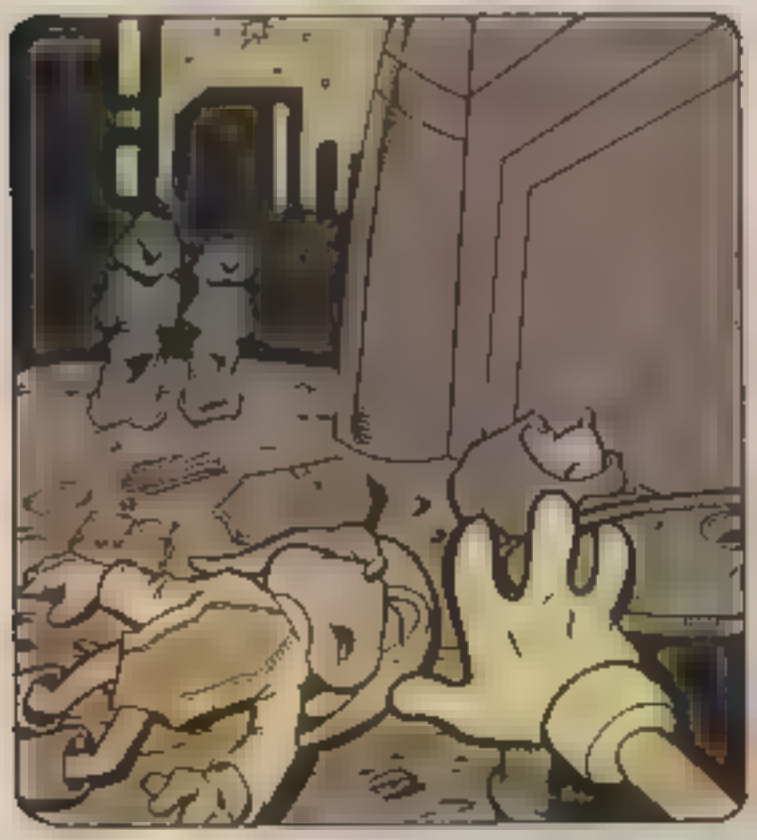
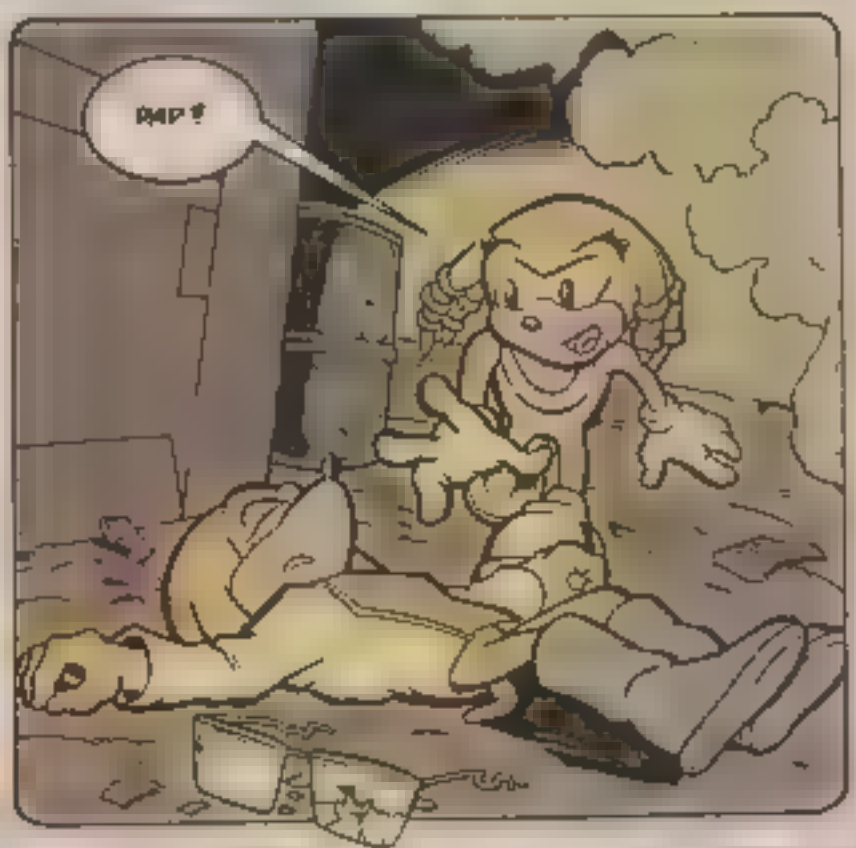
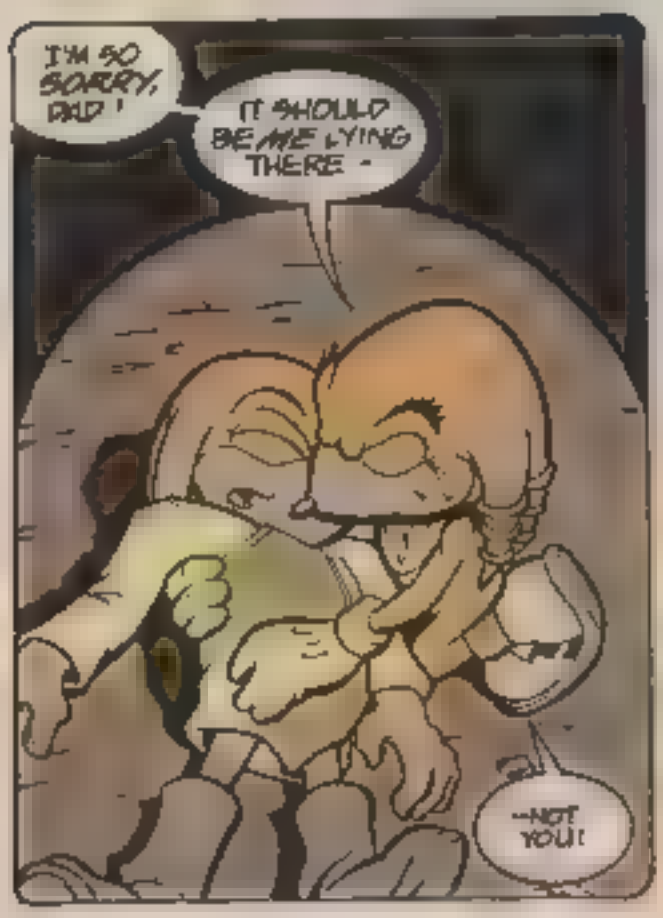
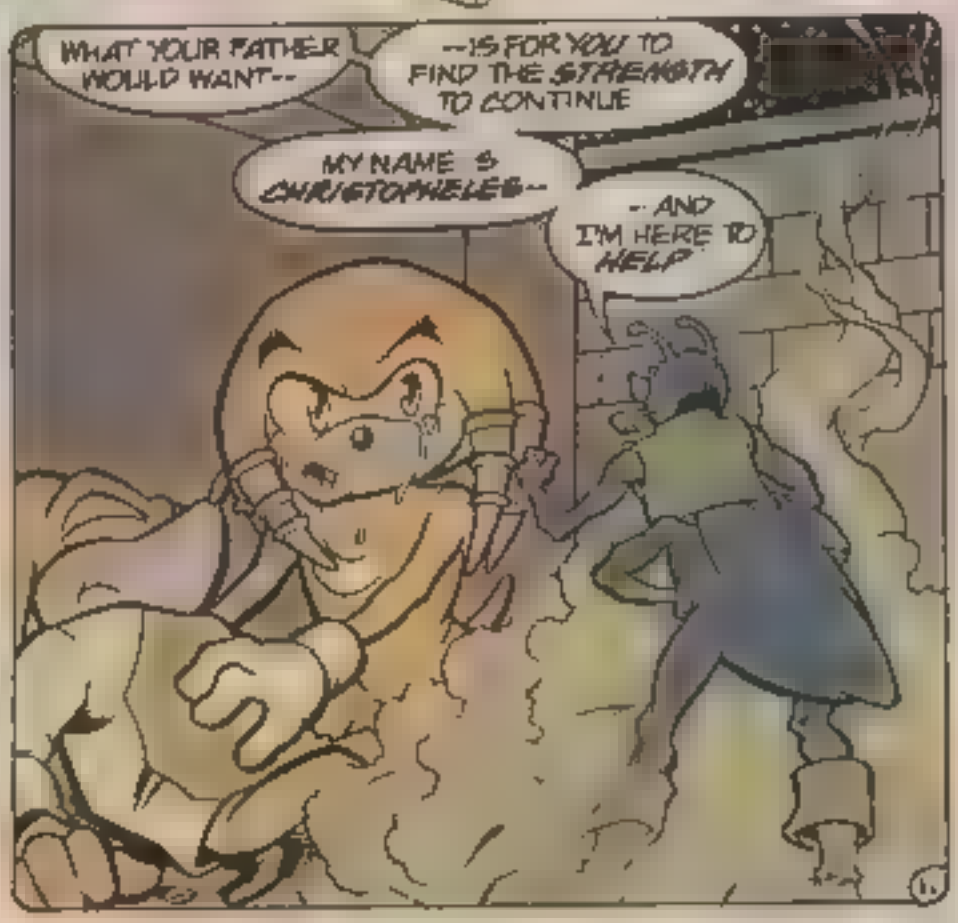
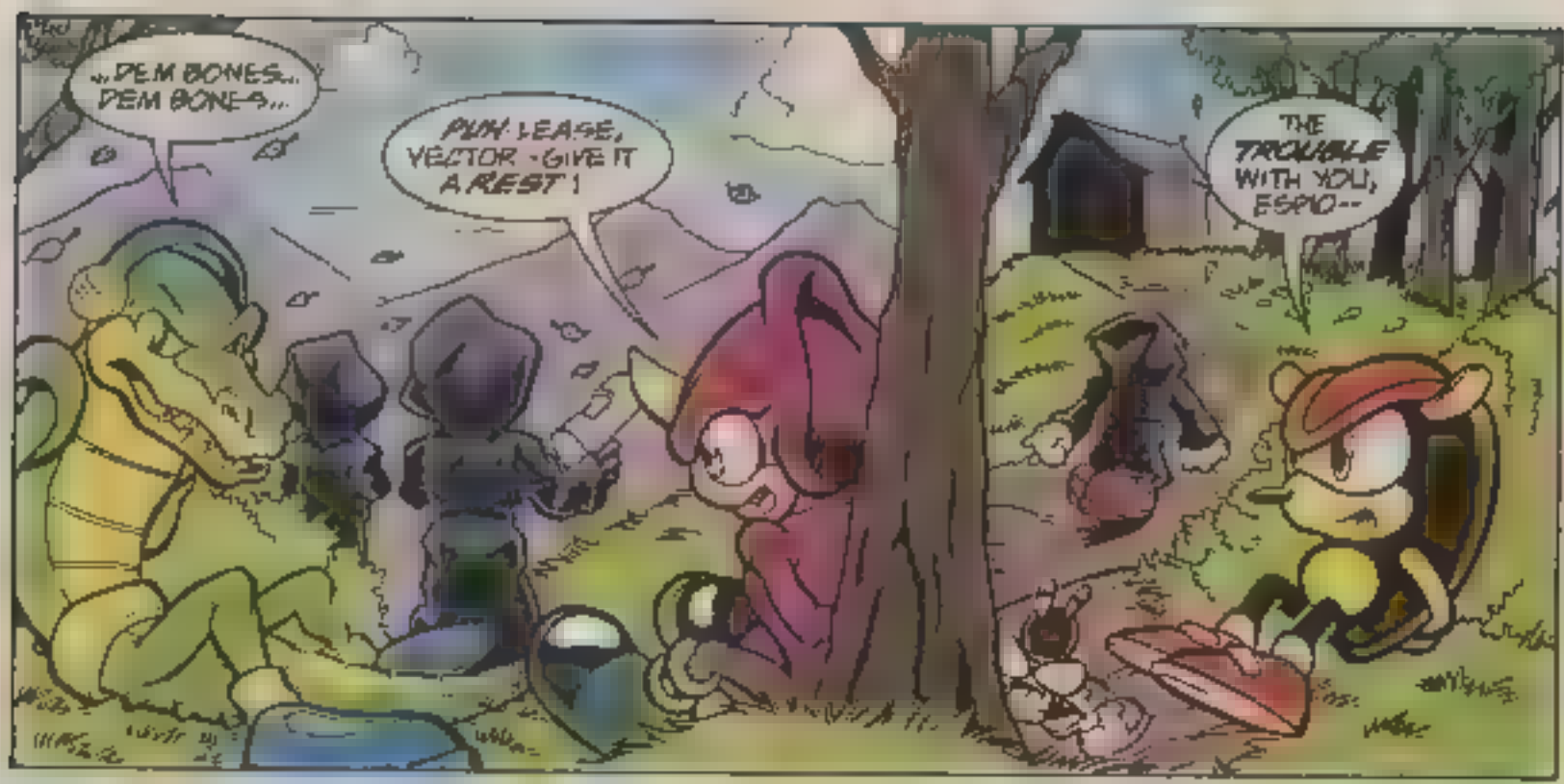

LET'S GO!
HE ISN'T EVER COMING BACK FROM NEVER-NEVER LAND!

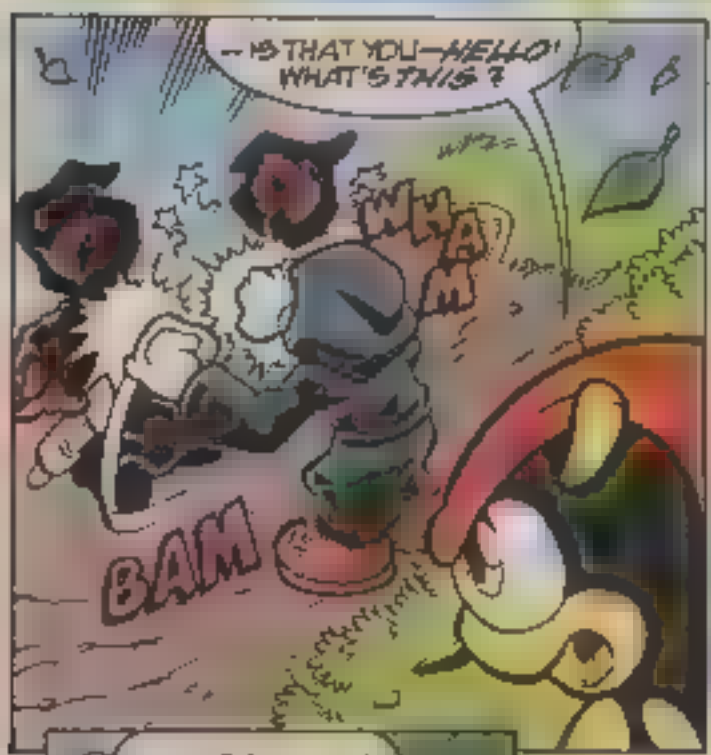


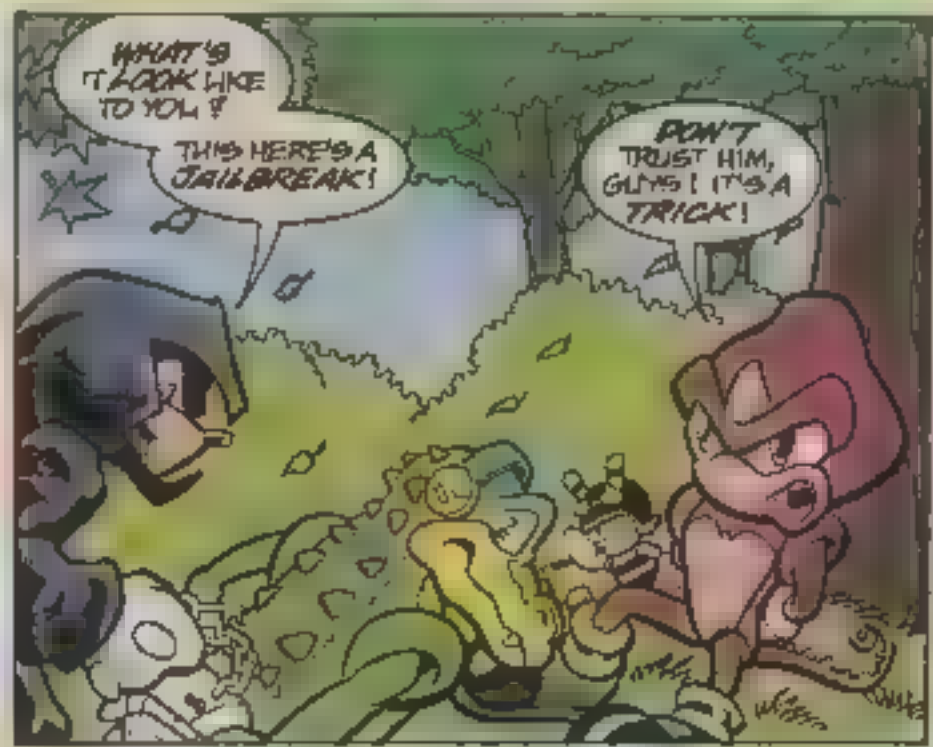

DAD!


I'M SO SORRY, DAD!
IT SHOULD BE ME LYING THERE -
--NOT YOU!

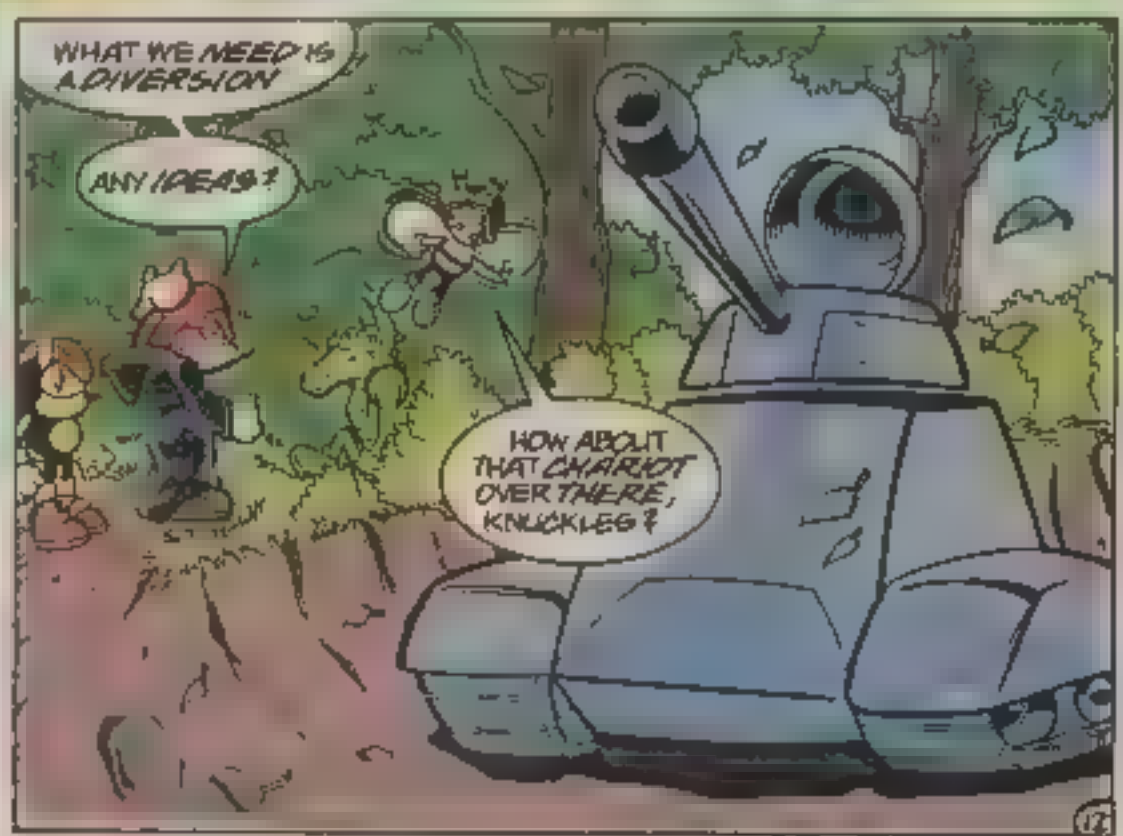

WHAT YOUR FATHER WOULD WANT--
--IS FOR YOU TO FIND THE STRENGTH TO CONTINUE
MY NAME IS CHRISTOPHELES--
-- AND I'M HERE TO HELP

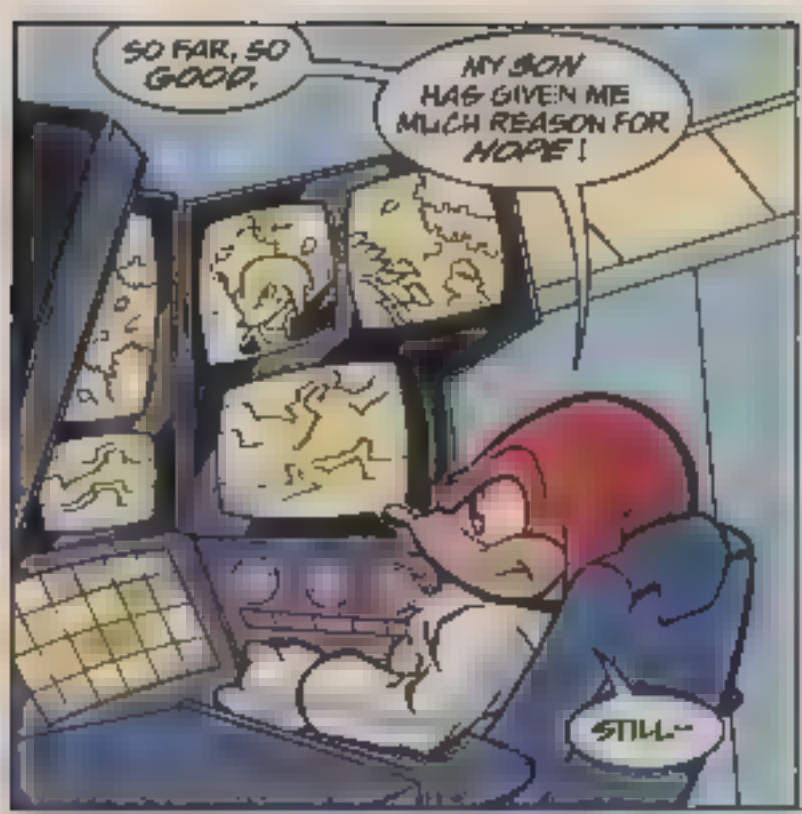

...DEM BONES... DEM BONES...
PUH-LEASE, VECTOR - GIVE IT A REST!
THE TROUBLE WITH YOU, ESPIO--

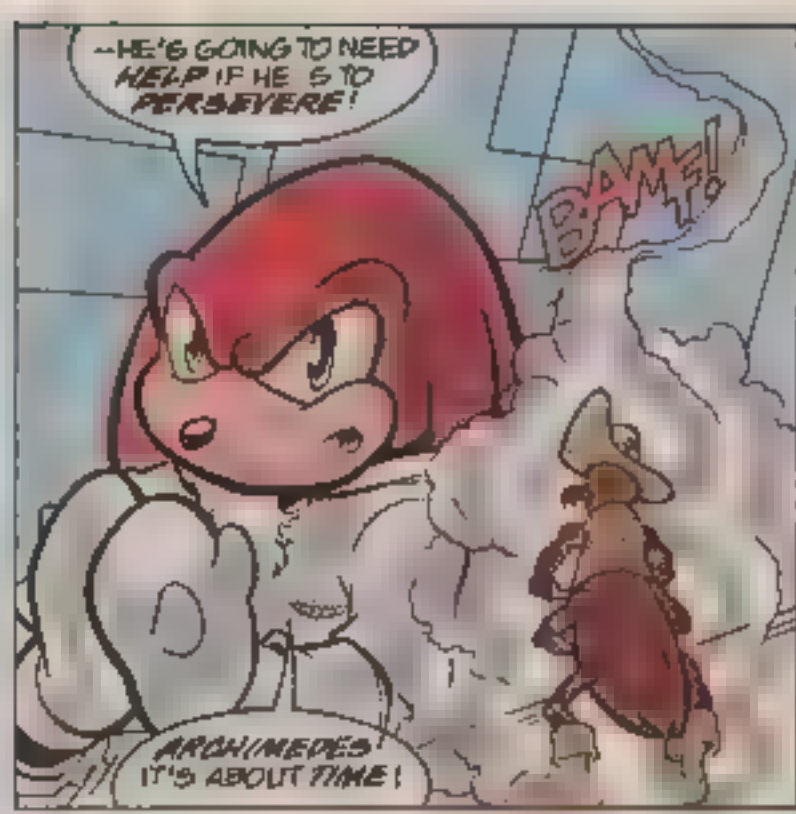

--IS THAT YOU--HELLO! WHAT'S THIS?
WHAM
BAM

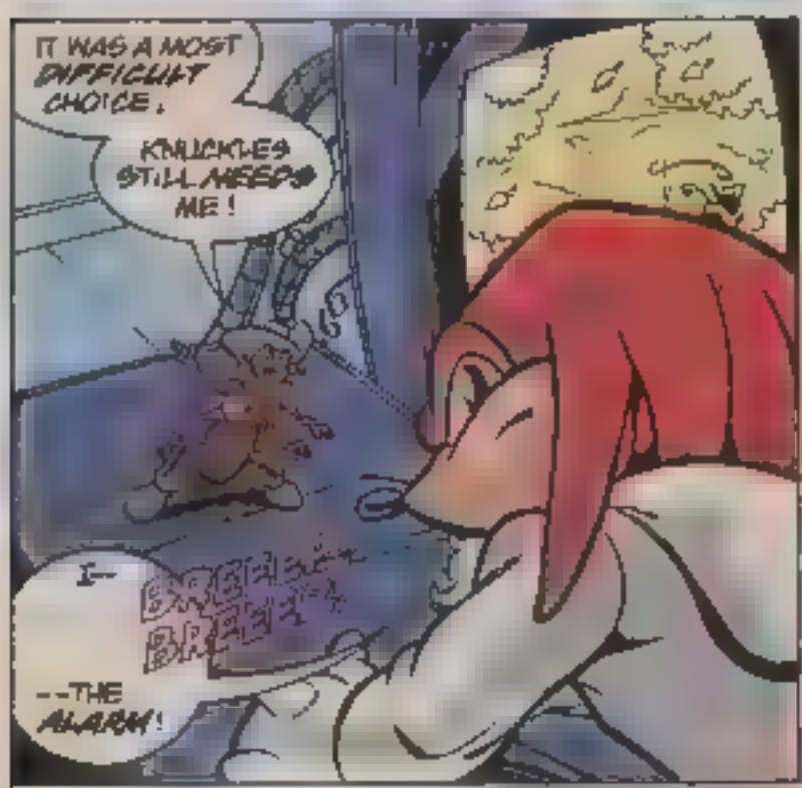

WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE TO YOU?
THIS HERE'S A JAILBREAK!
DON'T TRUST HIM, GUYS! IT'S A TRICK!

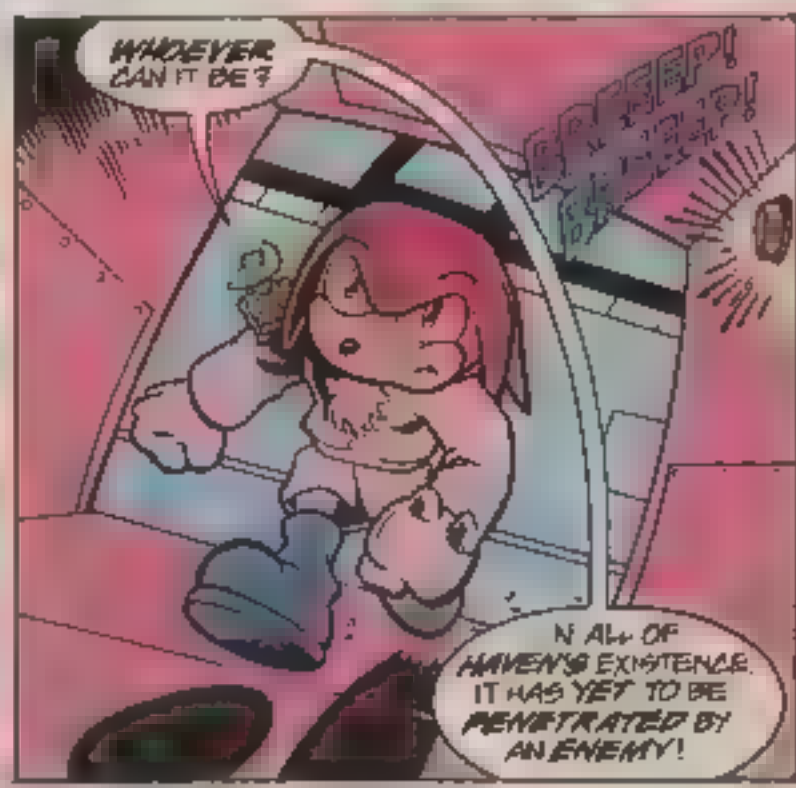
YOU BET IT IS!
AND IF WE DON'T GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD, IT'LL BE ON US INSTEAD OF THOSE POOFUSSES!

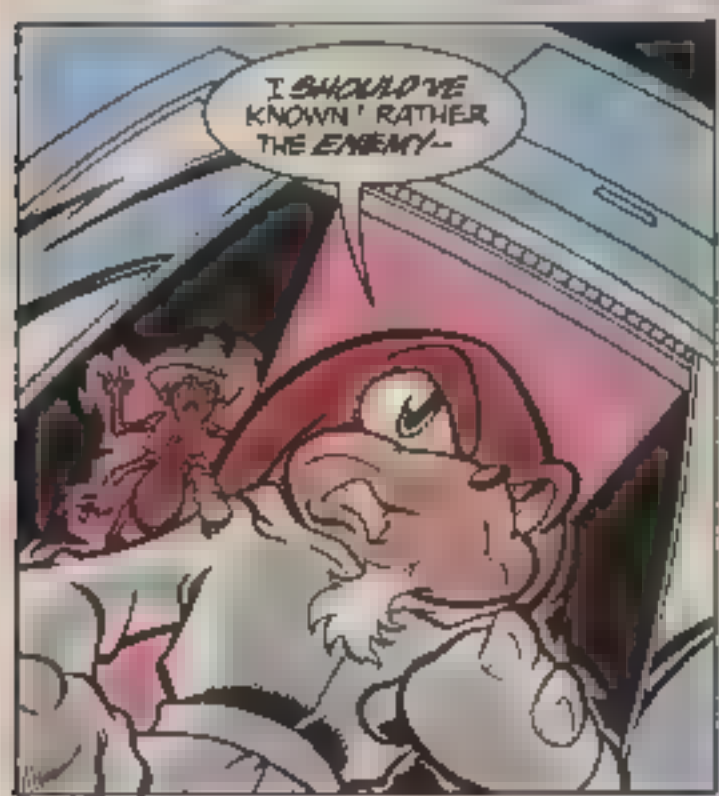

WHAT WE NEED IS A DIVERSION
ANY IDEAS?
HOW ABOUT THAT CHARIOT OVER THERE, KNUCKLES?

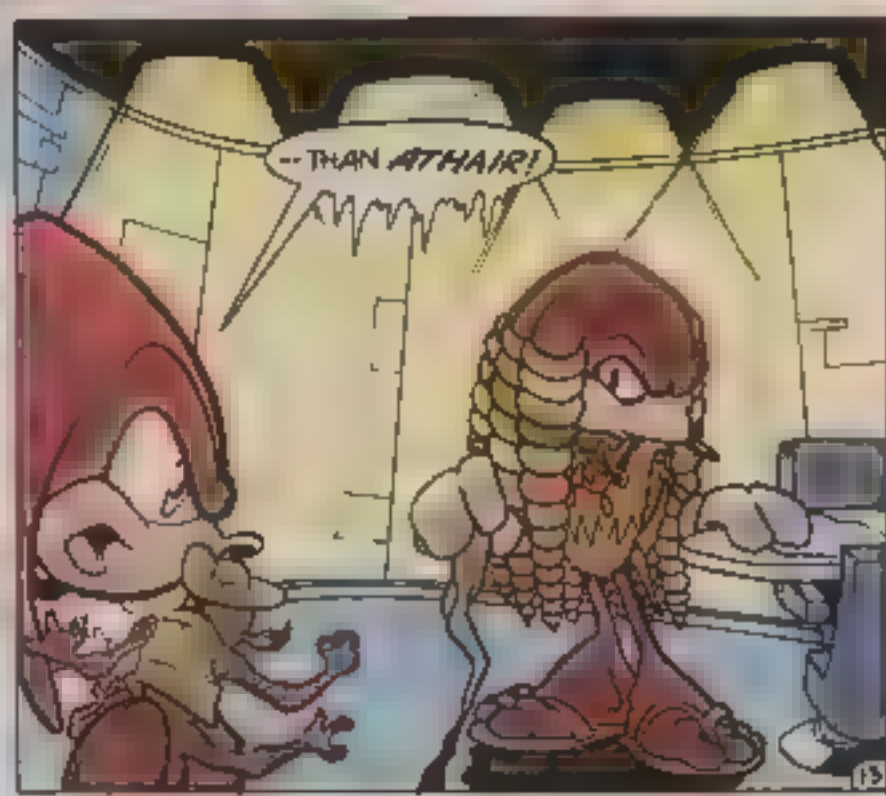

SO FAR, SO GOOD.
MY SON HAS GIVEN ME MUCH REASON FOR HOPE!
STILL--


--HE'S GOING TO NEED HELP IF HE'S TO PERSEVERE!
BAM!
ARCHIMEDES! IT'S ABOUT TIME!

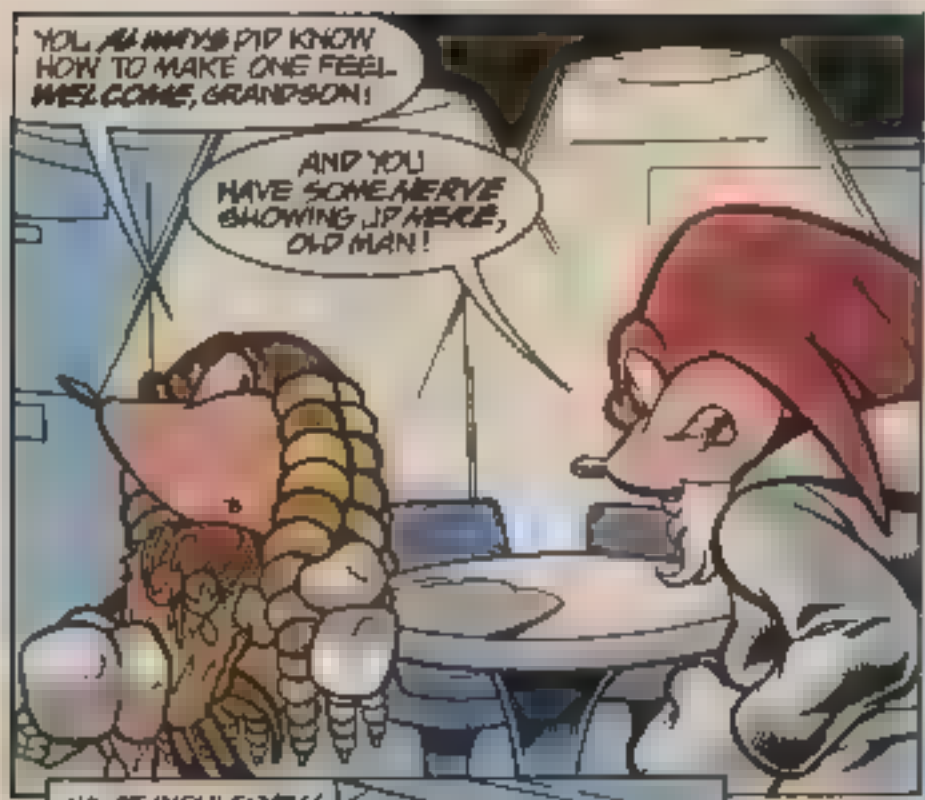

IT WAS A MOST DIFFICULT CHOICE.
KNUCKLES STILL NEEDS ME!
I--
--THE ALARM!

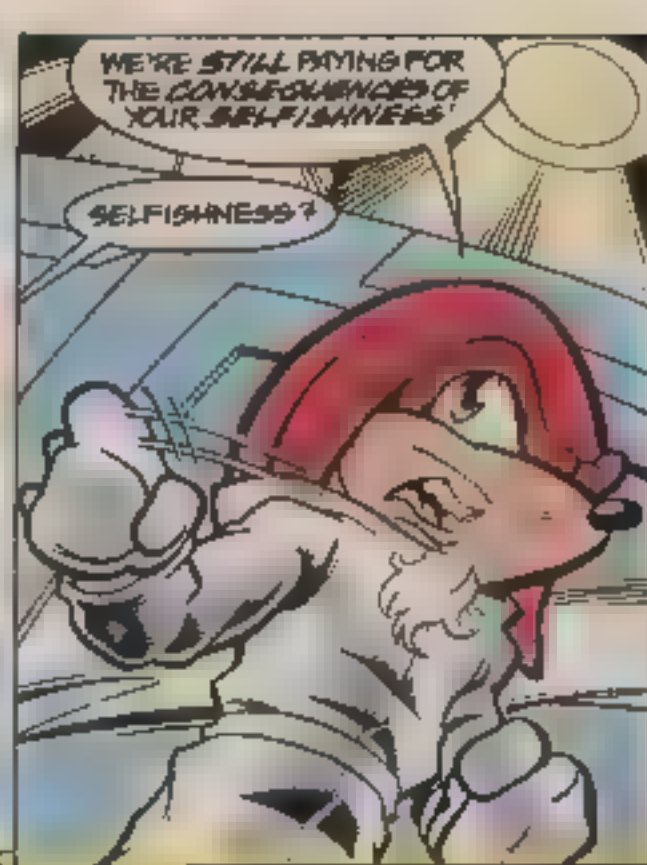

WHOEVER CAN IT BE?
BEEP!
IN ALL OF HAVEN'S EXISTENCE, IT HAS YET TO BE PENETRATED BY AN ENEMY!


I SHOULD'VE KNOWN! RATHER THE ENEMY--

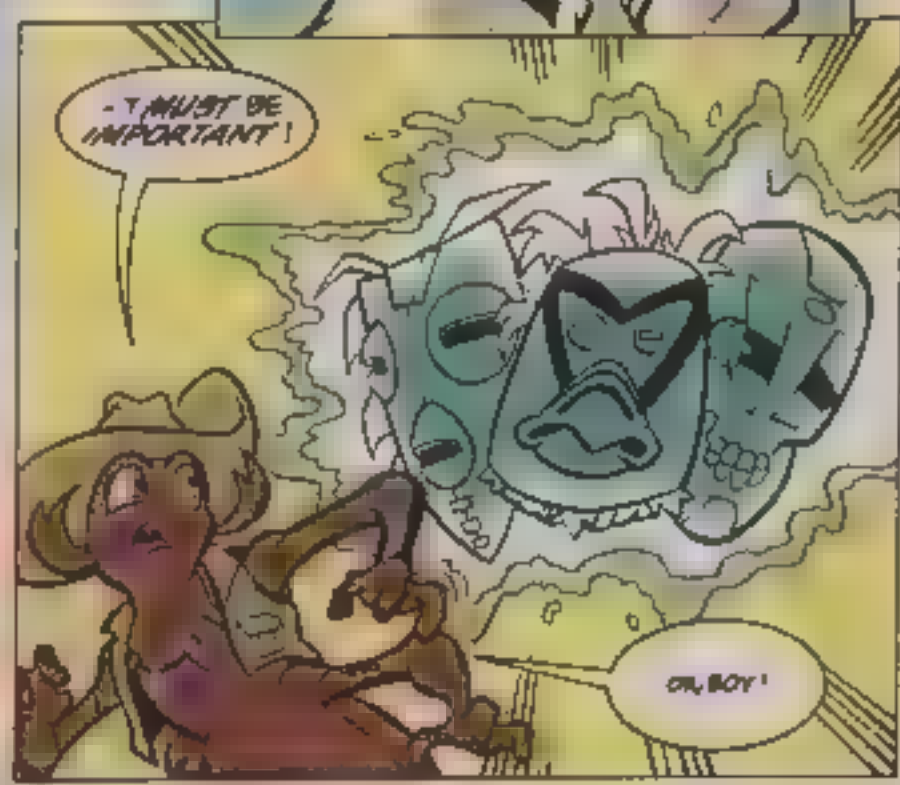

--THAN ATHAIR!

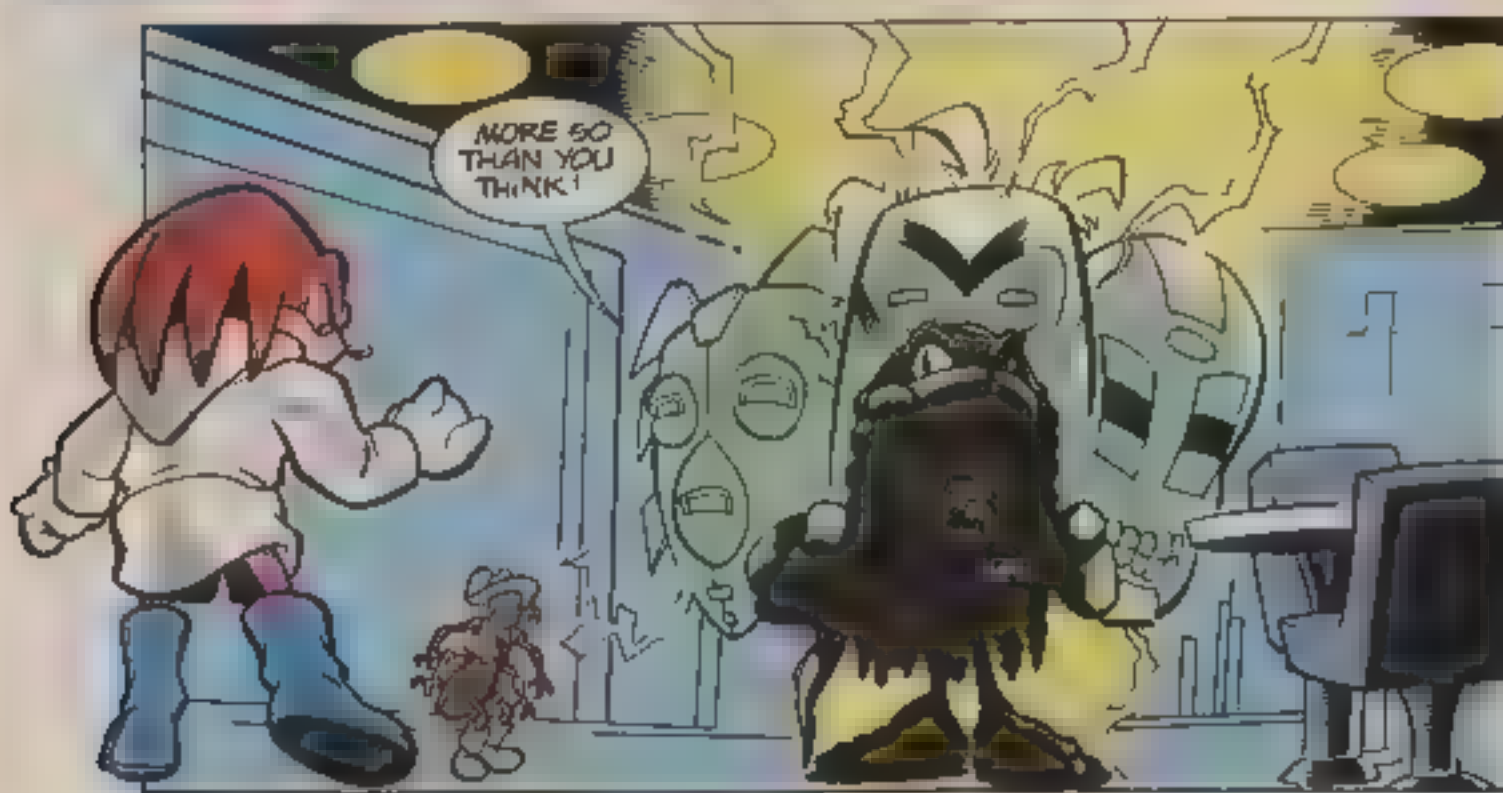
DID YOU HEAR? WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MOVING OUT SOON.
NOT SOON ENOUGH, IF YOU ASK ME
RROOOAARRR
EXPLOSION
WHOA! CHECK THIS OUT!!
KRAGOK'S GONNA HAVE SOMEONE'S HEAD FOR THIS!
SKRUNCH
SKRUNCH
ROOOAARRRRRR
KA-BOOOMM!
THAT OUGHTTA BREAK 'EM UP!
HEY, MAN, ALL THESE AEROBICS ARE GETTING TO YOURS TRULY.
HOW ABOUT A BREAK?
LATER!
RIGHT NOW, WE NEED TO CREATE SOME BREATHING ROOM BETWEEN US AND THEM!
SO, LET'S MOVE IT OR LOSE IT!
14

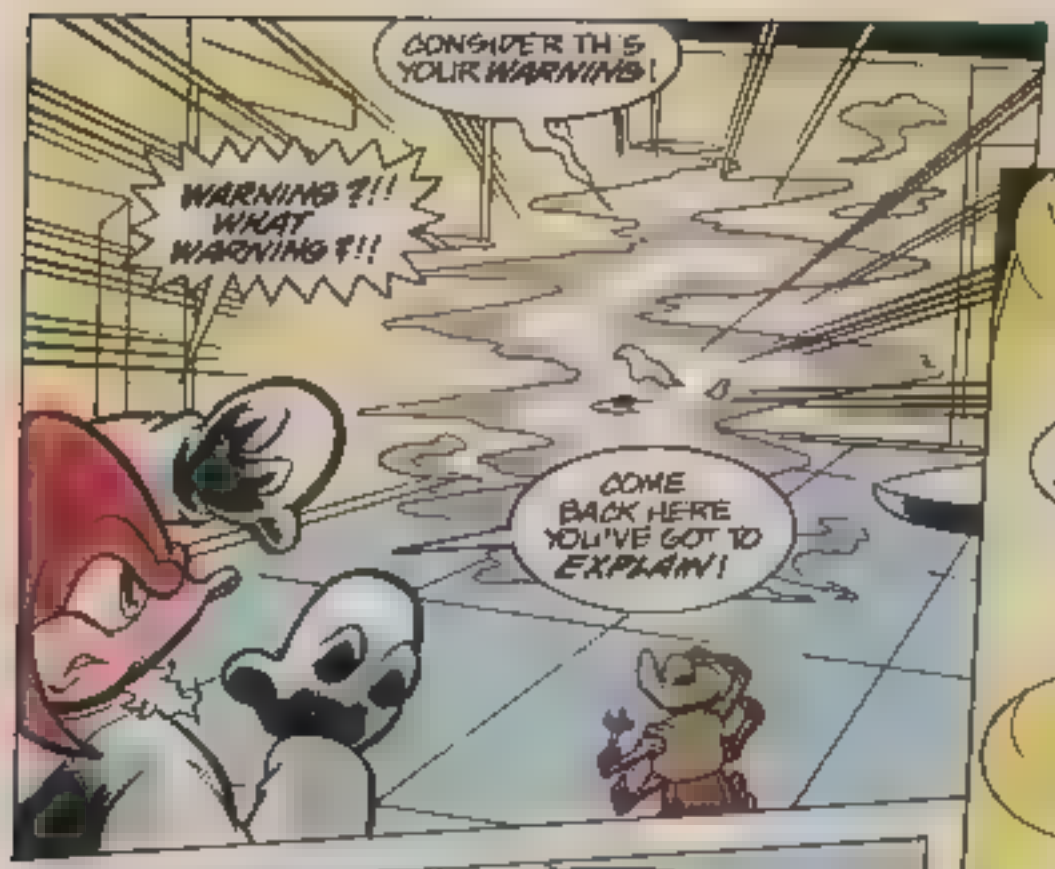

YOU ALWAYS DID KNOW HOW TO MAKE ONE FEEL WELCOME, GRANDSON!
AND YOU HAVE SOME NERVE SHOWING UP HERE, OLD MAN!


WE'RE STILL PAYING FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR SELFISHNESS!
SELFISHNESS?

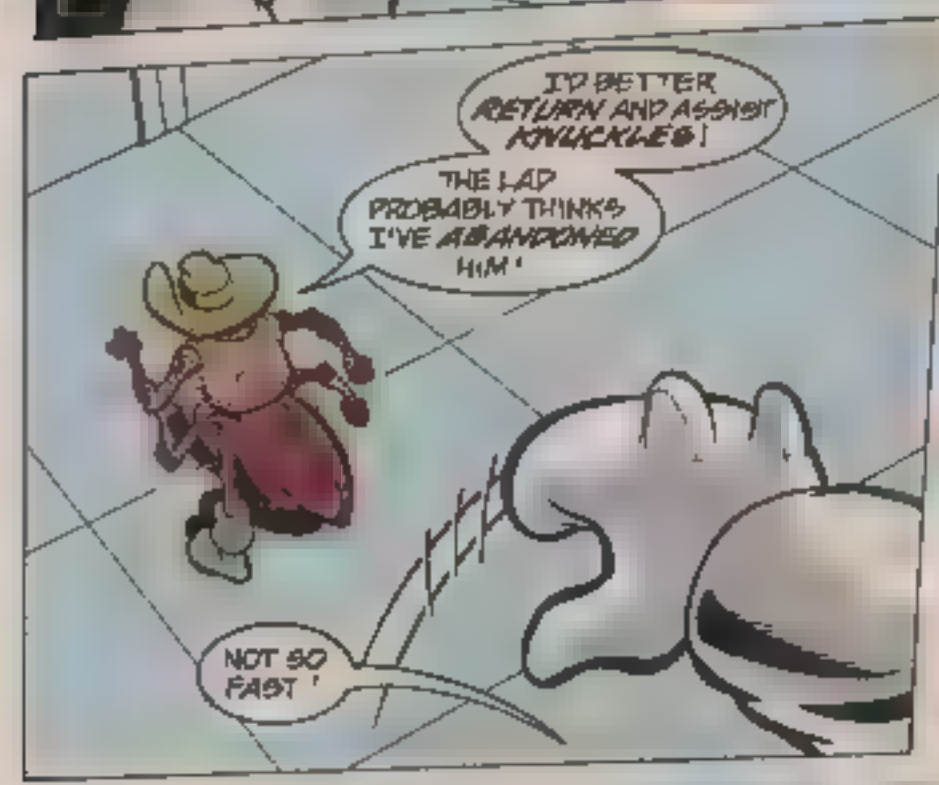
WHAT WOULD YOU CALL IT?
EVERYONE— PLEASE— THIS IS AN OLD ARGUMENT!
IF ATHAIR IS HERE—

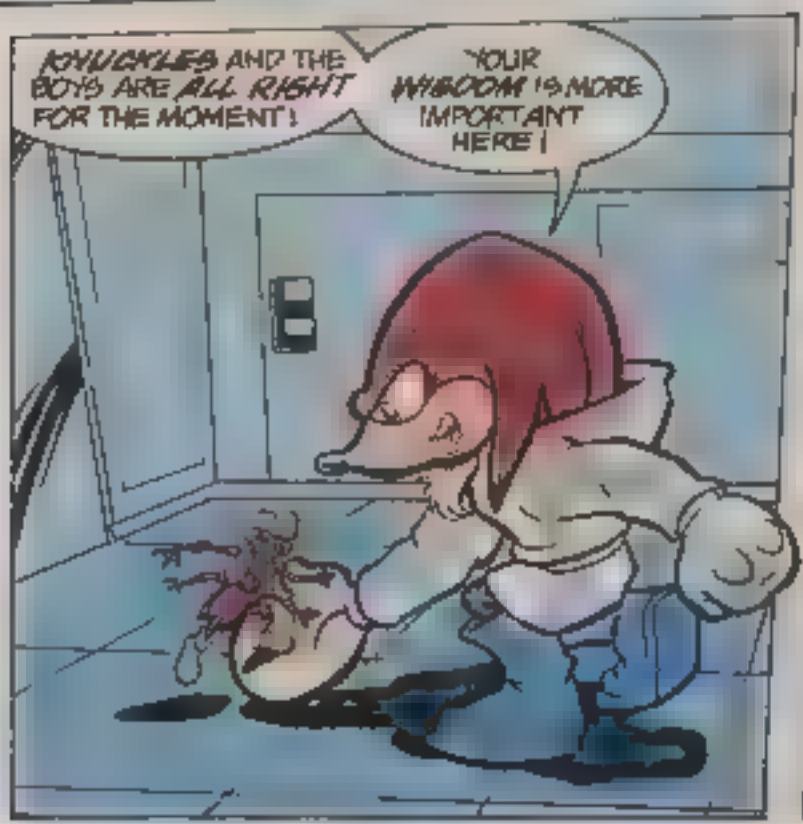

—IT MUST BE IMPORTANT!
OH, BOY!

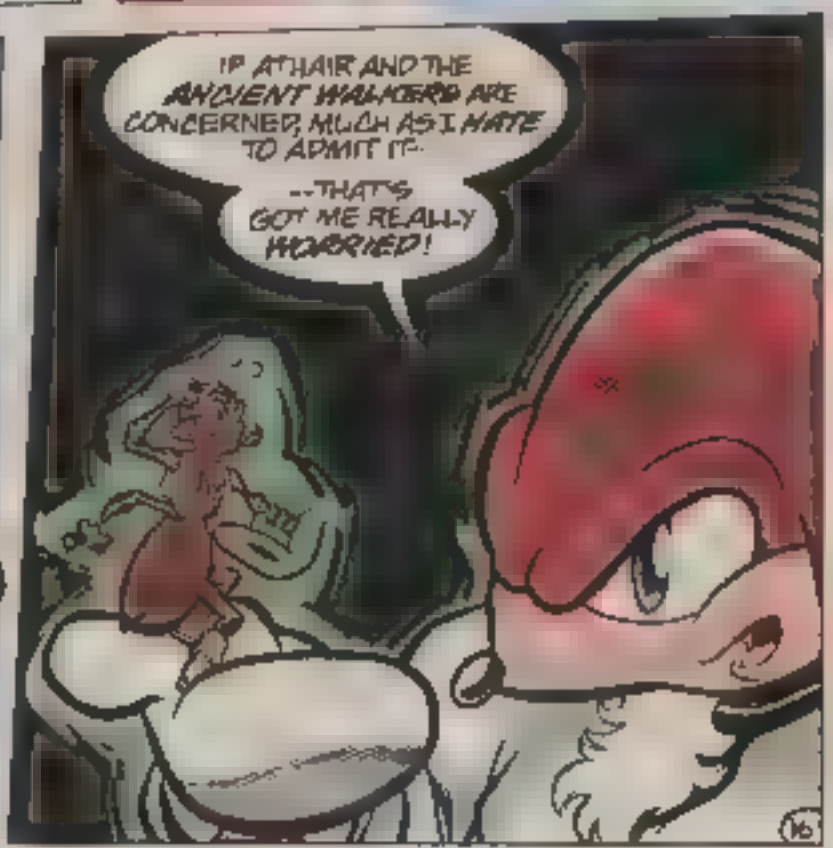

MORE SO THAN YOU THINK!

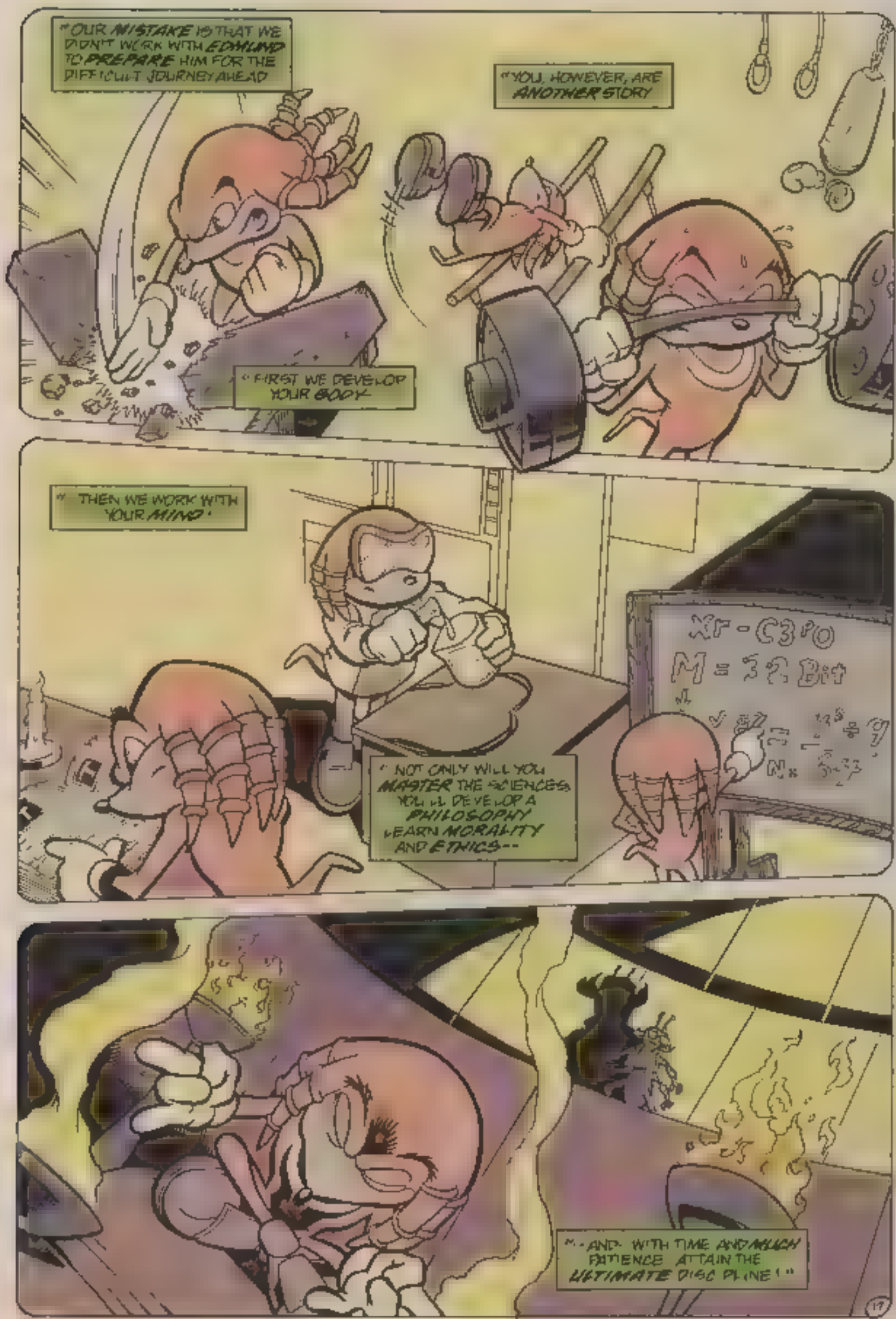

CONSIDER THIS YOUR WARNING!
WARNING?!! WHAT WARNING?!!
COME BACK HERE YOU'VE GOT TO EXPLAIN!

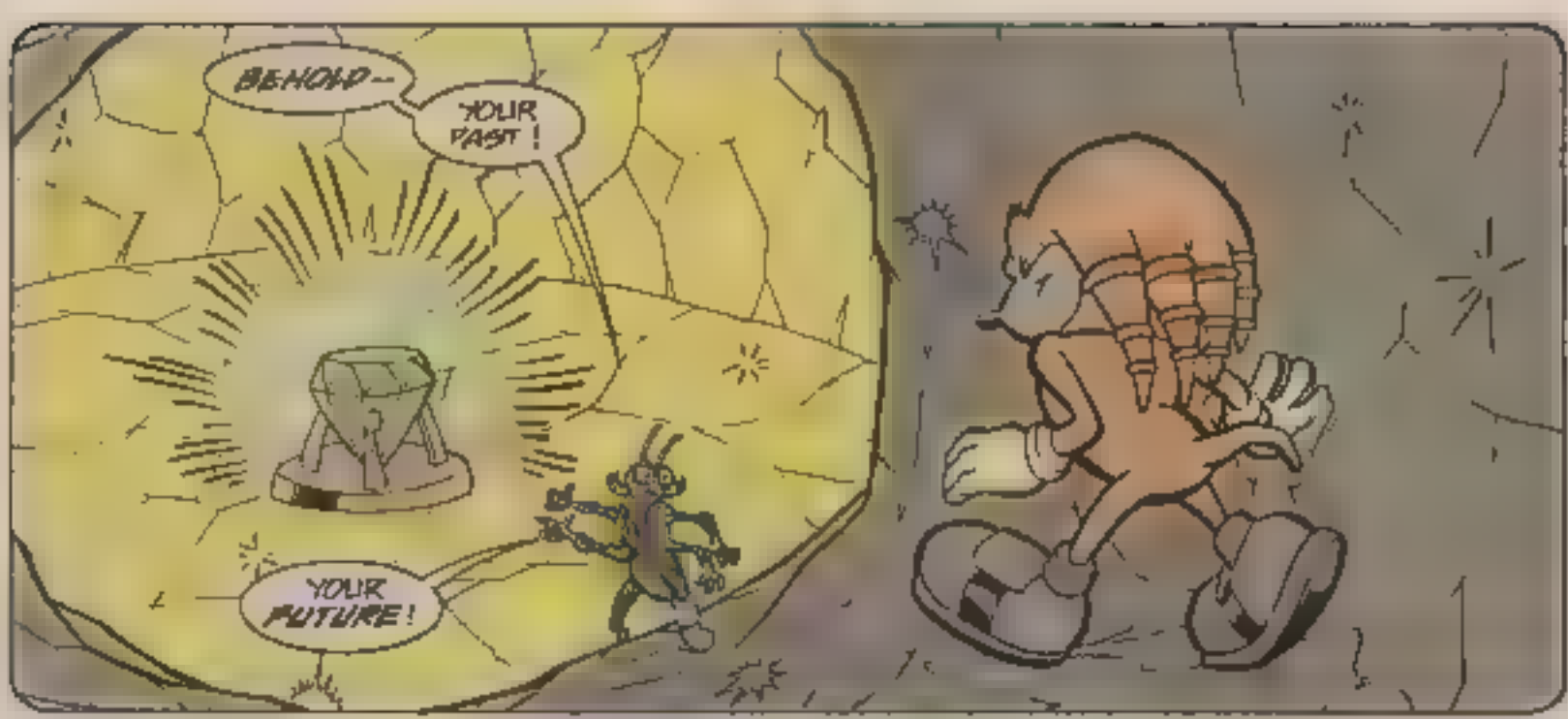
YOU CAN PICK YOUR FRIENDS, DISCIPLE, BUT YOU CAN'T PICK YOUR FAMILY!
EVEN MY FATHER THOUGHT ATHAIR WAS QUITE A LOAD!

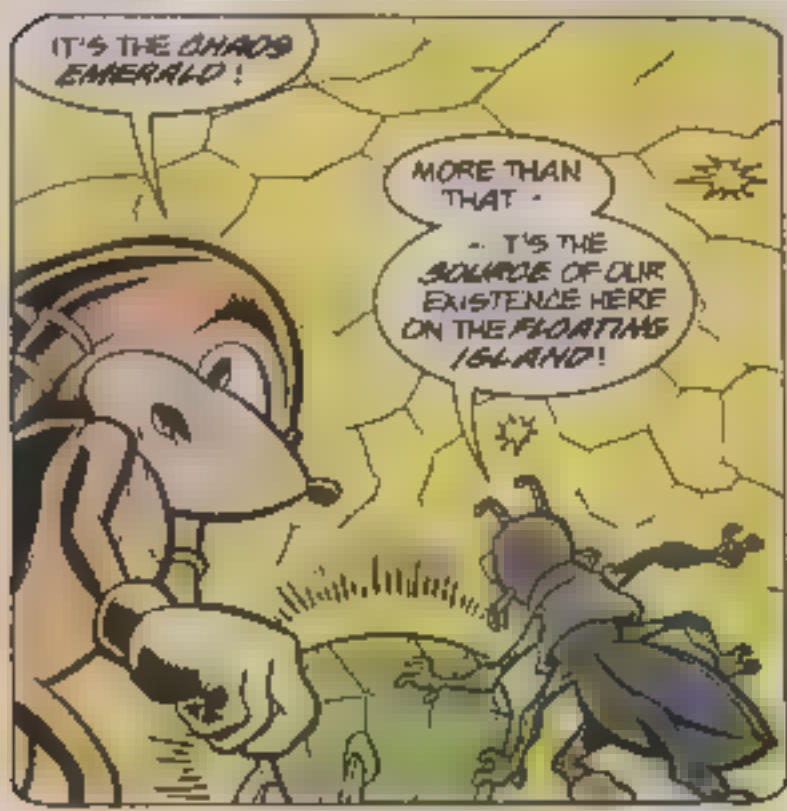

I'D BETTER RETURN AND ASSIST KNUCKLES!
THE LAD PROBABLY THINKS I'VE ABANDONED HIM!
NOT SO FAST!

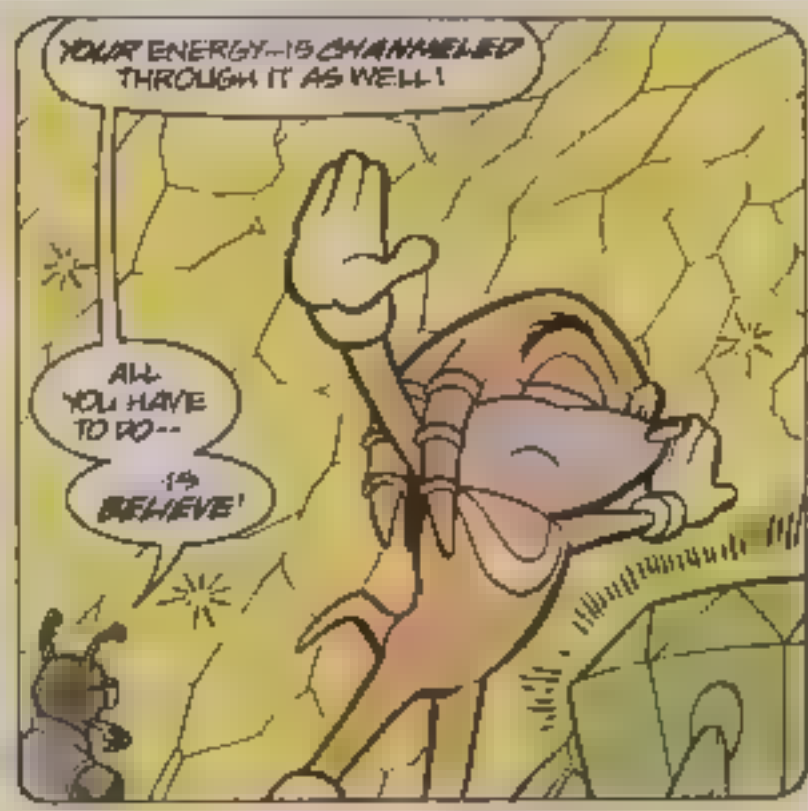

KNUCKLES AND THE BOYS ARE ALL RIGHT FOR THE MOMENT!
YOUR WISDOM IS MORE IMPORTANT HERE!

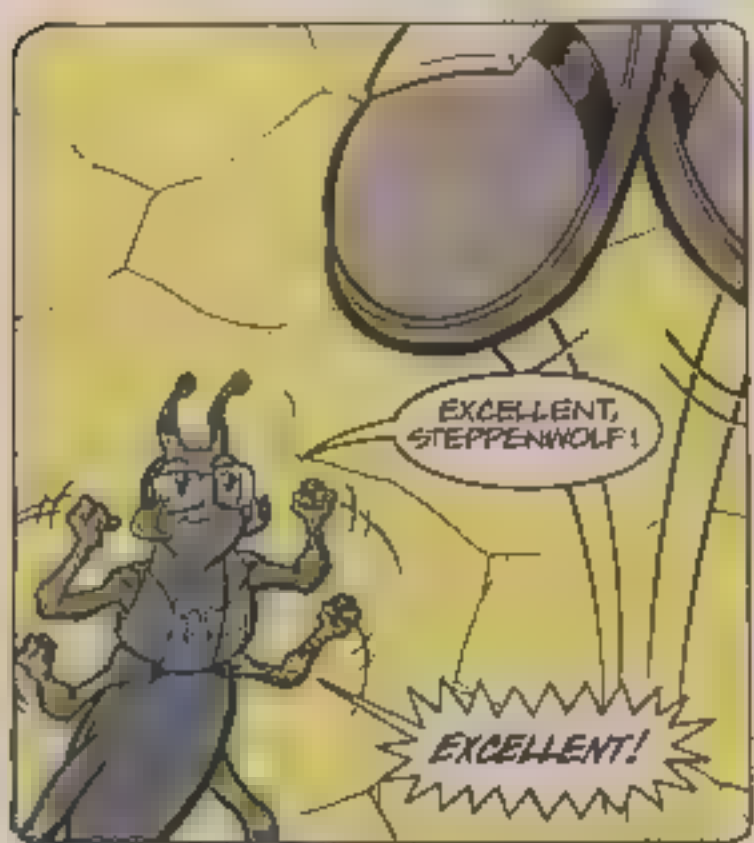

IF ATHAIR AND THE ANCIENT WALKERS ARE CONCERNED, MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT.
--THAT'S GOT ME REALLY WORRIED!

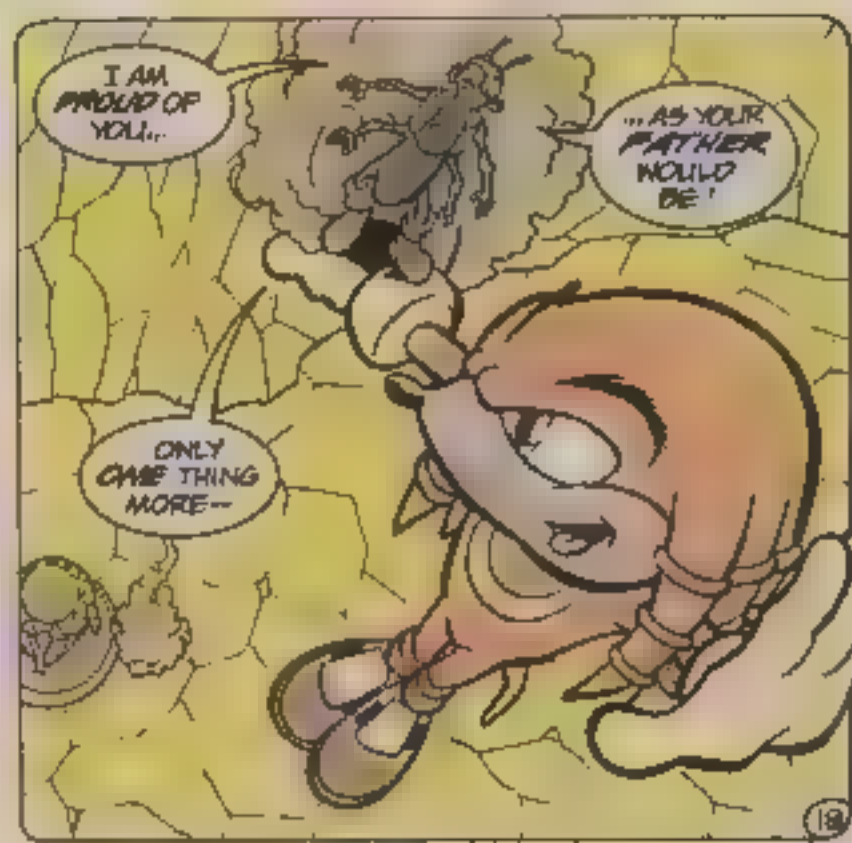

"OUR MISTAKE IS THAT WE DIDN'T WORK WITH EDMUND TO PREPARE HIM FOR THE DIFFICULT JOURNEY AHEAD
"YOU, HOWEVER, ARE ANOTHER STORY
"FIRST WE DEVELOP YOUR BODY
"THEN WE WORK WITH YOUR MIND.
XF-C3PO
M=32 Bit
"NOT ONLY WILL YOU MASTER THE SCIENCES, YOU'LL DEVELOP A PHILOSOPHY, LEARN MORALITY AND ETHICS--
"...AND WITH TIME AND MUCH PATIENCE ATTAIN THE ULTIMATE DISCIPLINE!"


BEHOLD--
YOUR PAST!
YOUR FUTURE!


IT'S THE CHAOS EMERALD!
MORE THAN THAT -
- IT'S THE SOURCE OF OUR EXISTENCE HERE ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!


YOUR ENERGY--IS CHANNELED THROUGH IT AS WELL!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO--
-IS BELIEVE!


EXCELLENT, STEPPENWOLF!
EXCELLENT!


I AM PROUD OF YOU...
...AS YOUR FATHER WOULD BE!
ONLY ONE THING MORE--

"– BEFORE YOU ASSUME THE MANTLE OF GUARDIAN!"

THERE IT IS, STEPPENWOLF – YOUR NEW HOME!

EH-ER-WHERE?

WHAT HOME?

WHY--STRAIGHT AHEAD!

JUST KEEP WALKING!

ARE YOU SURE?

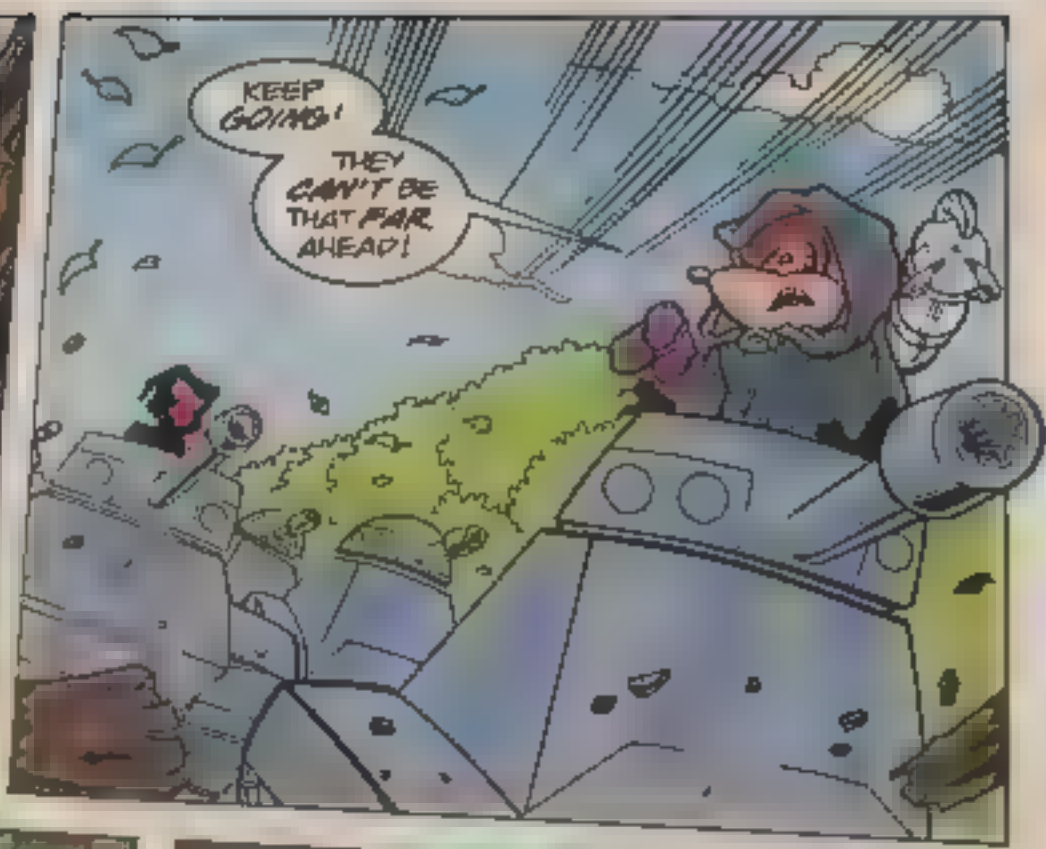
MORE THAN SURE

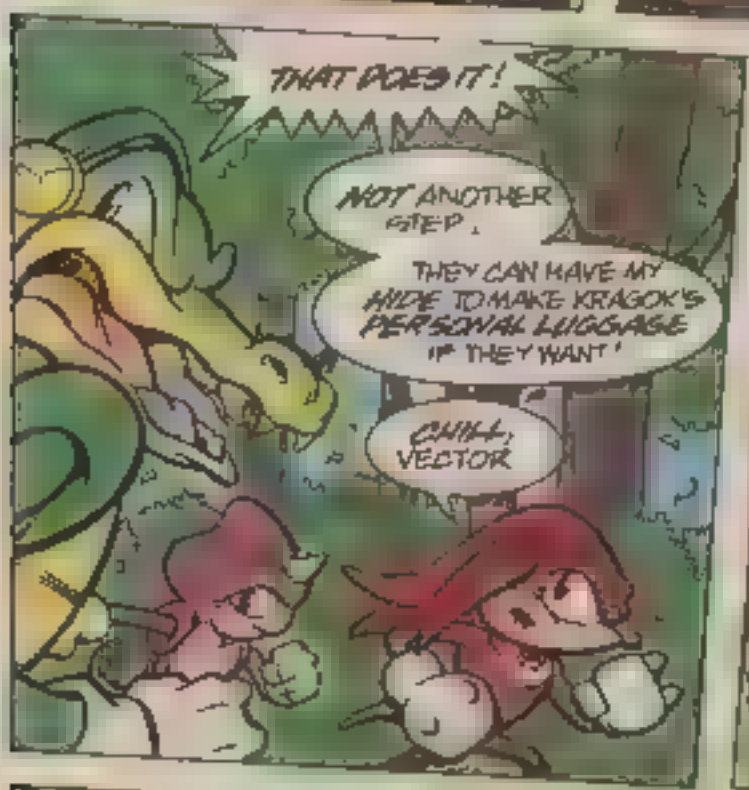
WELCOME TO HAVEN!

THIS WILL BE YOUR BASE OF OPERATIONS--

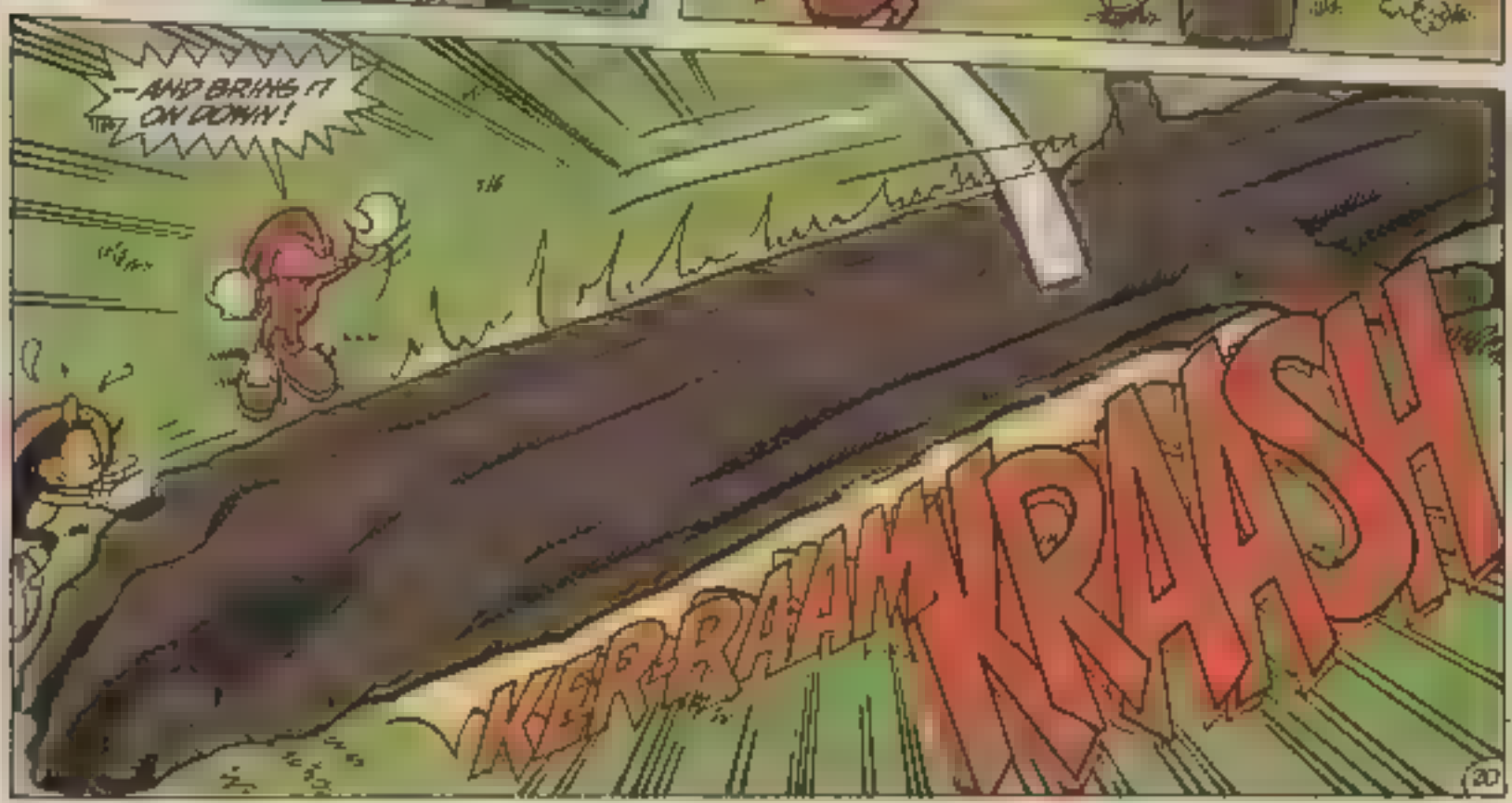
--AS WELL AS THAT OF FUTURE GUARDIANS!

KER-RAAASH
KER-RAAASH
ROOOAAARR

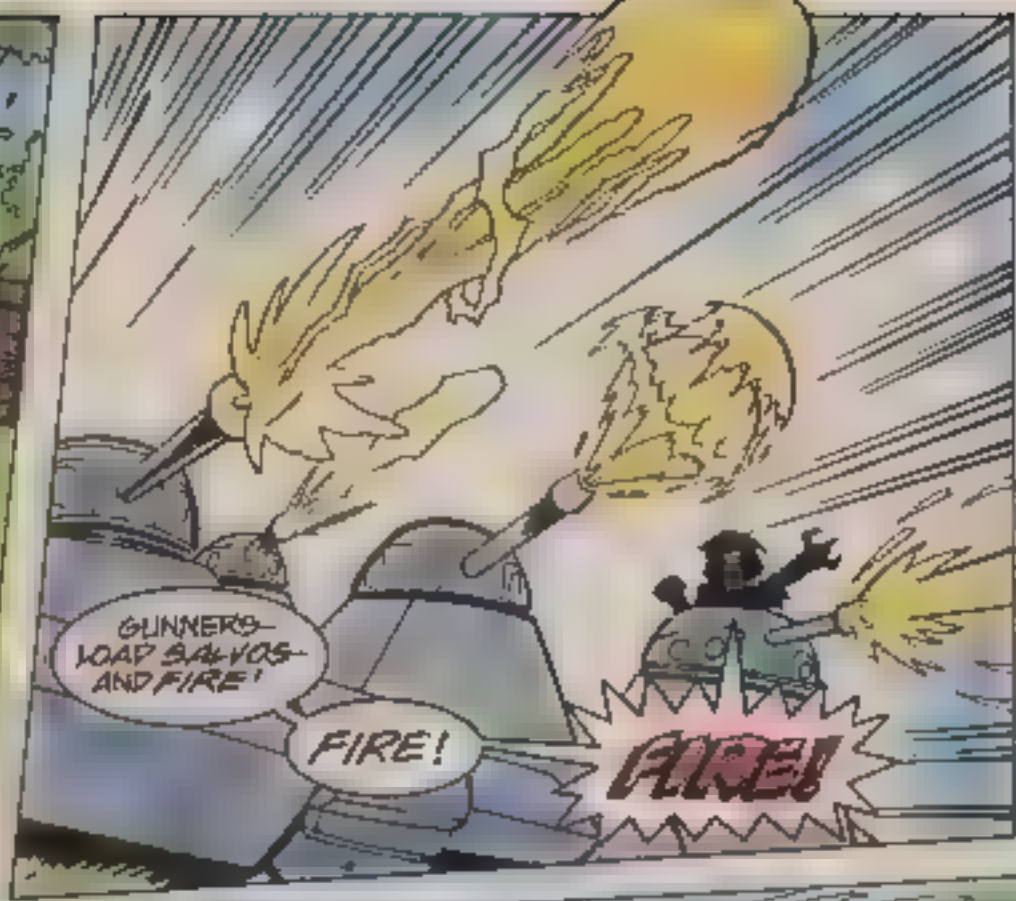

KEEP GOING!
THEY CAN'T BE THAT FAR AHEAD!


THAT DOES IT!
NOT ANOTHER STEP.
THEY CAN HAVE MY HIDE TO MAKE KRAGOK'S PERSONAL LUGGAGE IF THEY WANT!
CHILL, VECTOR

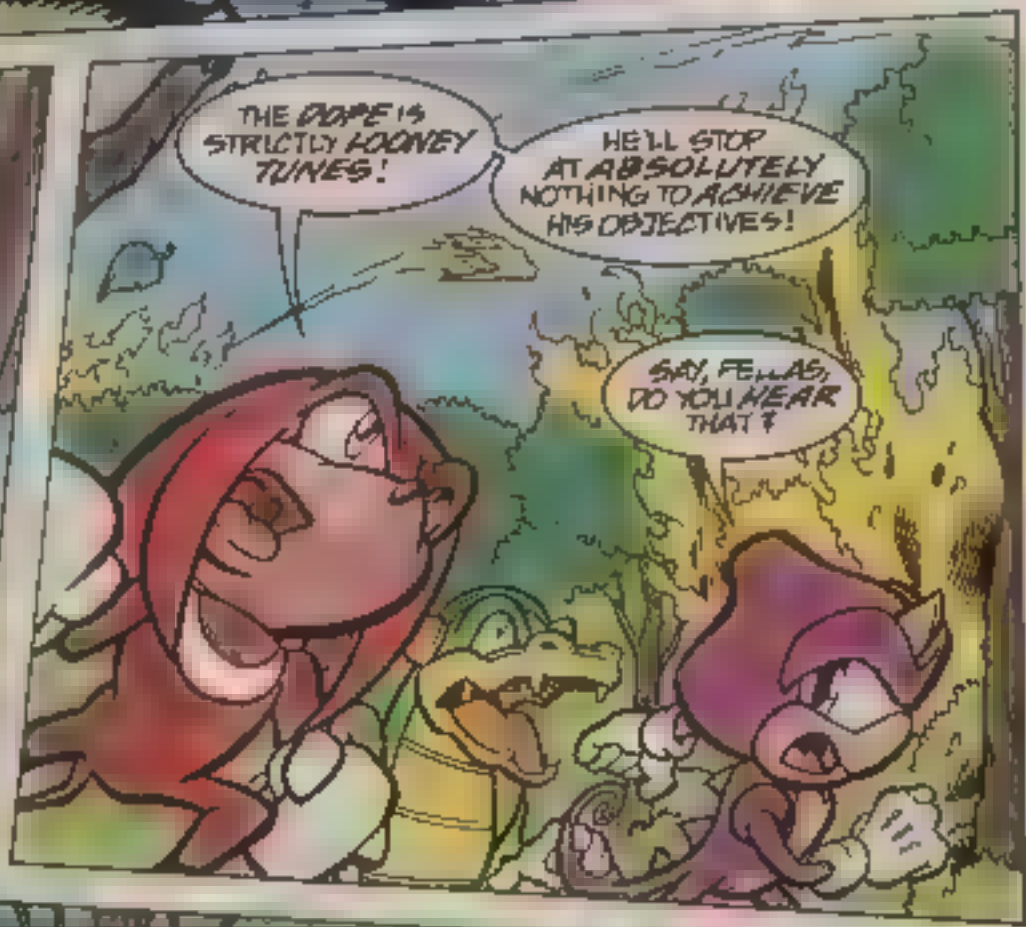
I GOT IT!
MIGHTY. I NEED YOU TO PLAY LUMBERJACK WITH THIS FINE PIECE OF OAK--

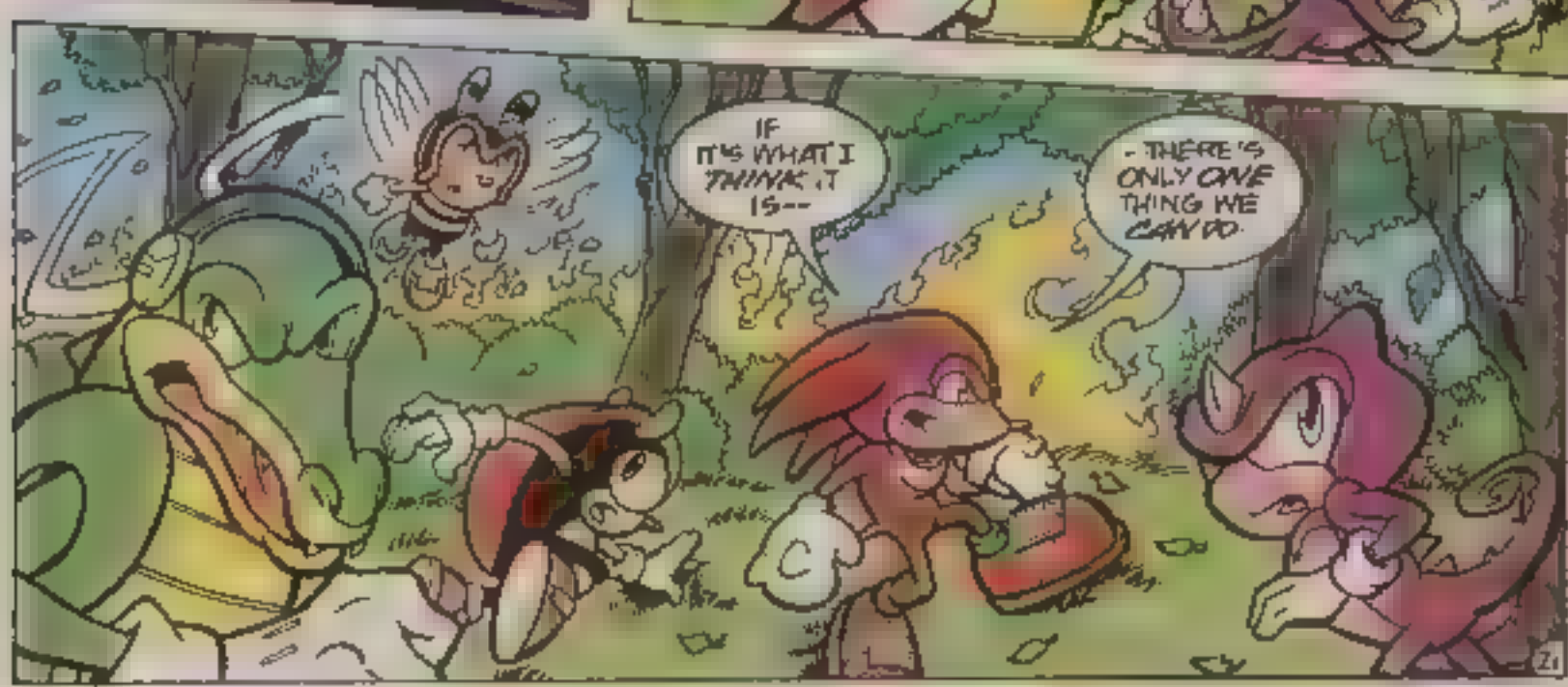

--AND BRING IT ON DOWN!
KER-RAAAM
KRAASH

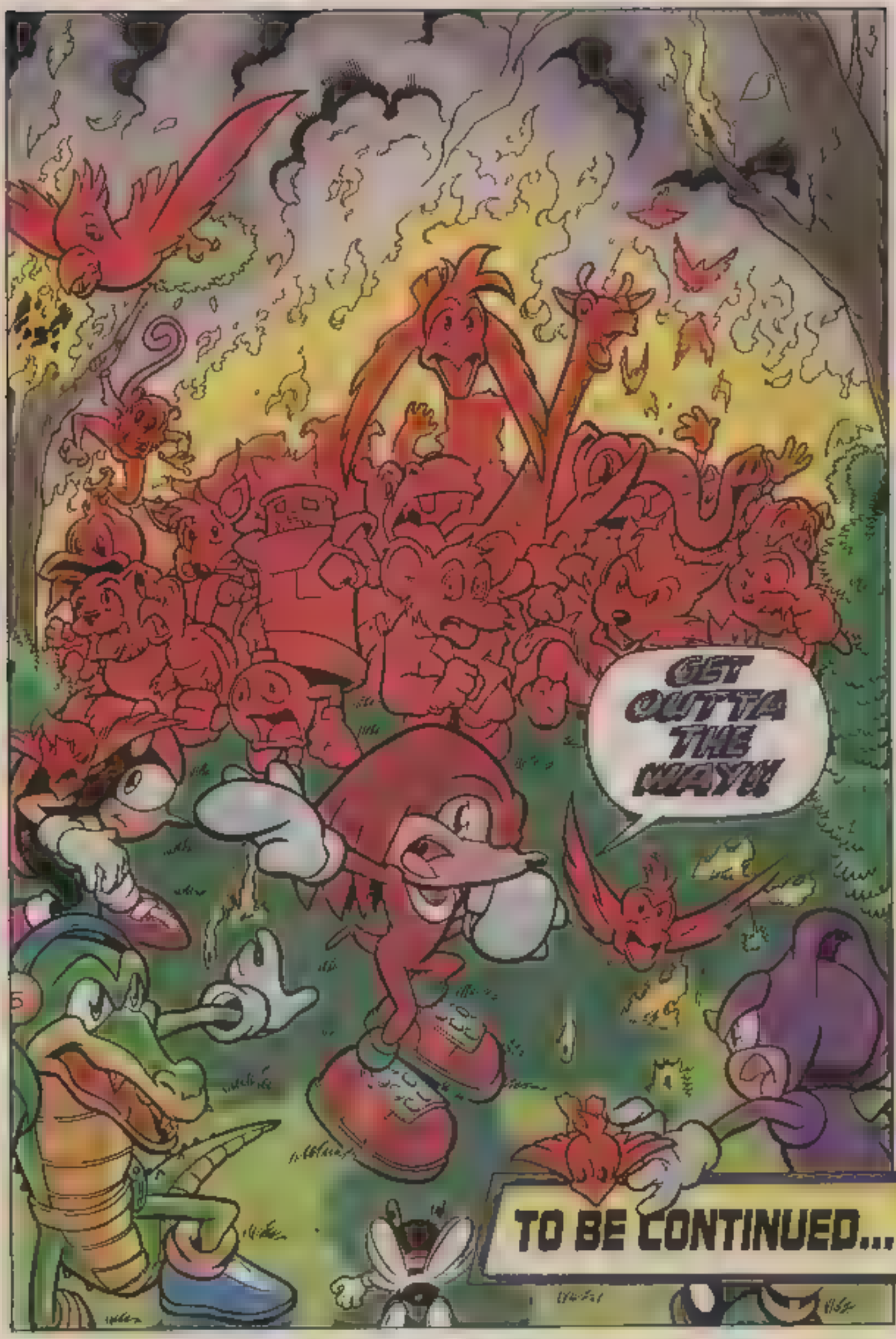
SUCH BRILLIANT STRATEGY SUCH CLEVER TACTICS!
FOR THE BUSH LEAGUES, THAT'S!

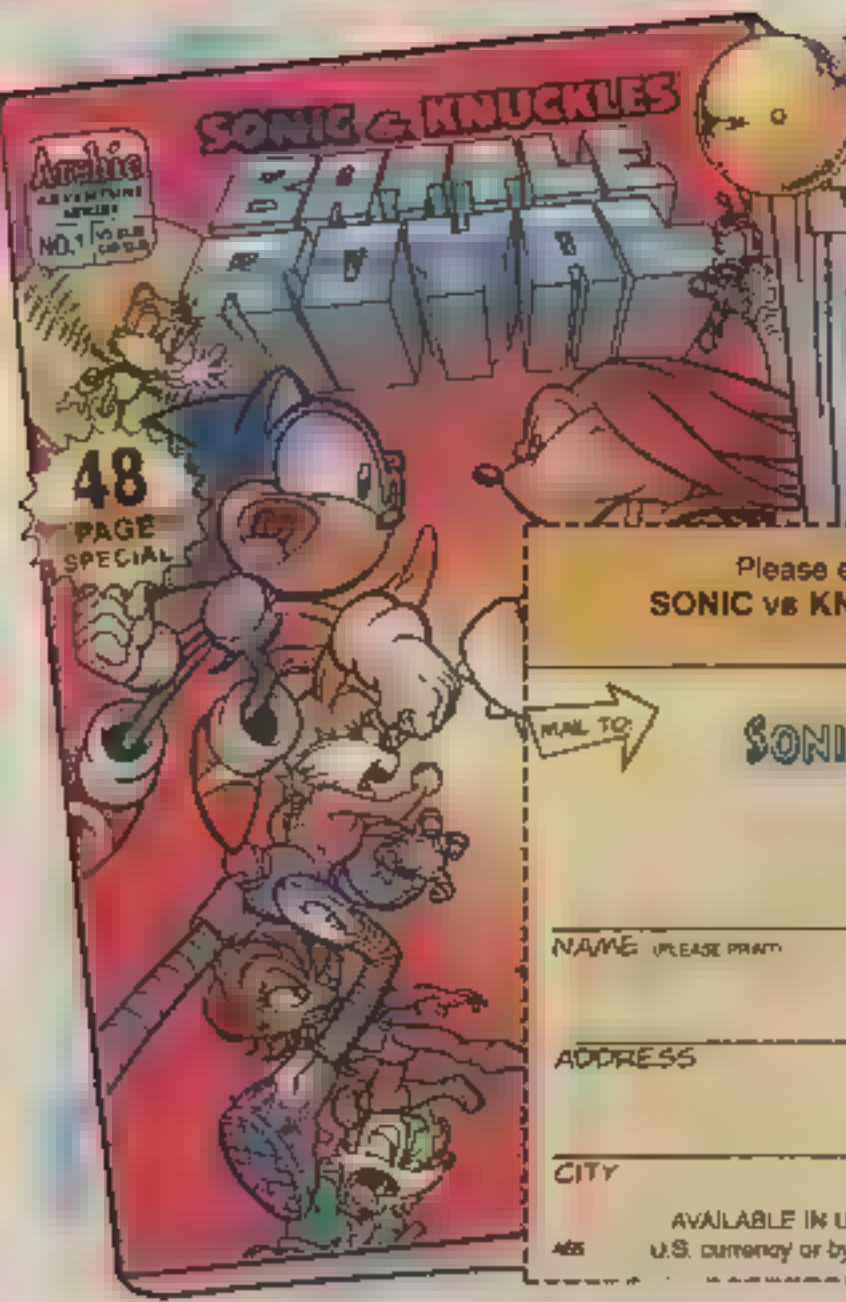

GUNNERS LOAD SALVOS AND FIRE!
FIRE!
FIRE!

"WE'LL BURN IT ALL DOWN IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES."


THE DOPE IS STRICTLY HOONEY TUNES!
HE'LL STOP AT ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO ACHIEVE HIS OBJECTIVES!
SAY, FELLAS, DO YOU HEAR THAT?


IF IT'S WHAT I THINK IT IS--
- THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO.


GET OUTTA THE WAY!!
TO BE CONTINUED...



DING! DING! DING!

Ladies & gentlemen, let's get ready to

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You have now read the second issue of Knuckles' second mini-series. As you can see, things are just starting to get WARMED UP!!! The Dark Legion will stop at nothing to get what they want! The exciting conclusion next month!

Even as I write this, KNUCKLES: THE DARK LEGION #1 is now going through the final stages of printing. I can't wait for it to get into your hands. I've been going through your mail and the response for Knuckles has been so overwhelming. It does my heart good to know that Knuckles can enjoy the same kind of support that our little blue hedgehog is already used to getting. Thanks, guys and gals!

In other echidna news, the final installment of "Knuckles' Quest" for King Acorn's sword is in SONIC #46, on sale now! Then look out for "SONIC VS. KNUCKLES: BATTLE ROYAL!" Sonic and the Freedom Fighters go up against— Knuckles and The Chaotix!?! But why? The answer will have 'mammoth' surprises! This 48-page Special is due out in May '97! It will feature the writing talents of Kent Taylor and Ken Penders along with penciling new-comer Sam Maxwell! His stylistic impressions of our favorite characters will dazzle your eyes. Trust me.

As far as our 'brother' title, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG... check out issue #47 in two weeks as "END GAME" begins and takes us on a journey into Sonic's 50th issue extravaganza. Don't miss the action and excitement!

FREDDY

Dear Knuckles,

I WANT MY KNUCKLES' COMIC NOW!!! I think you have the best, super-red comics in the world. I think they are great. I hope you come out with another mini-series. I like your comics better than Sonic's (but don't tell him I said that)!

With high fives,
Ryan Jennings
Toledo, OH

Thanks, Ryan. Talk about straight and to the point. You definitely don't mince words. Just the way I like it. Anyway, your wish is my command. How do you like the new mini-series so far? As far as your comment, please let me tell Sonic what you just said. It would make my day! Heh, heh.

Dear Knuckles,

I think you are cooler than Super Sonic when you become Hyper Knuckles! I think I know where to find the emeralds in the "SONIC & KNUCKLES"game: 1) Go to a colorful big ring; 2) Jump in it; 3) Then you're in the Hidden Zone where you try to get all seven emeralds to become Hyper Knuckles! Is the "SUPER SONIC VS. HYPER KNUCKLES Special #1" the last we see of Hyper Knuckles?

Alphy Orozco
Bellevue, WA

I have to tell you, Alphy, being Hyper Knuckles was really strange. After that experience, I started to wonder if that's how my ancestral uncle, Dimitri, felt when he fused with the power of 11 emeralds into his body to become Enerjak. If I ever become Hyper Knuckles again, I hope never to get greedy with power or I'll become just like him!

Dear Knuckles,

I am your number one fan. I have all three issues of your mini-series. I especially like issue #3 the best. Now I have some questions: 1) Do you play video games? 2) Are there any new Sonic video games coming out? 3) Do you like Tails? I have the Sonic & Knuckles game. I always like to play you because I only reach the Lava Reef Zone with Sonic. I beat the game with you.

John-Michael Berger (Age 8)
Houston, TX

How's it going, J.M.? As far as your questions, I have answers: 1) No. Who has the time to play when I'm constantly defending this island. Vector, on the other hand... 2) As you probably already know "Sonic 3-D Blast" has made its debut. Check it out! It's "Da' Bomb!" 3) Tails...? Oh, you mean the kid that hangs with Sonic. Yeah, sure I do... but he does get a little annoying at times. In SONIC #42, Tails and I went to see The Ancient Walkers and he wouldn't shut up. Anyway, that's it for this month. See you in thirty days, gang!

Because of limited space, the editors cannot guarantee that all correspondence will be published and reserve the right to edit messages as they see fit.

KNUCKLES BOOK 3 OF 3
THE DARK LEGION

KEN PENDERS/KENT TAYLOR
STORY

MANNY GALAN
PENCILS

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